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## Four suicide bombers identified



Soldiers patrol yesterday near Azira Shamalya, the home village of the four suicide bombers.

**By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH**

The General Security Service has positively identified four of the five suicide bombers who blew themselves up in Jerusalem's Mahaneh Yehuda market on July 30 and the Rehov Ben-Yehuda pedestrian mall on September 4, killing 20 and wounding hundreds.

The four - Mouaya Jarara, 23, Bashar Zoualha, 24, Tawfik Yassin, 25, and Yusef Shouli, 23 - were all residents of Azira Shamalya, a village near Nablus.

to determine the identity of the fifth suicide bomber. Final confirmation of the

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bombers' identities was received by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last night.

must never again rely on the cooperation of the Palestinian Authority to bestow security upon us. Had the PA done its part, the perpetrators in question would have been behind bars long ago and many innocent lives would have been spared.

The GSS deserves full credit for a job well done. It functions well on its own and reliance on the Palestinians merely weakens it. If the PA should ever have a change of heart and begin cooperating in earnest to stamp out terrorism, that

The four identified suicide bombers (from left): Yusef Shouli, Mouaya Jarara, Tawfik Yassin, Bashar Zoualha. (Courtesy of GPO)

The village was put under curfew by the IDF last night.

Azira Shamalya, with a population of 7,000, is in Area B, which is under Israeli security control. However, security officials believe those who planned the bombings and assisted the terrorists reside in Area A, which is under total Palestinian control.

Security officials are still trying

"I want to praise the General Security Service, which together with the IDF, police, and the biology department of the Institute for Forensic Medicine revealed the identities of four of the five suicide bombers," said Netanyahu.

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon said last night that, "If the GSS's successful investigation proves anything, it is how we

would be an added bonus, but there must never again be any form of dependence on them, as there unfortunately had been previously."

Meanwhile, PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's aide Mahmoud Abbas blamed Israel last night for purposely misleading the Palestinians.

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## Naveh denies Israel proposed halting Har Homa project

By NELLE KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Cabinet secretary Dan Naveh, the Prime Minister's advisor Uzi Arad and Eliyahu Ben-Elissar, the ambassador to the US, presented American officials yesterday with what Naveh said was proof that four of this summer's Jerusalem suicide bombers came from areas under Palestinian Authority control.

The three met with US special Middle East coordinator, Dennis Ross, in what Secretary of State Madeleine Albright last week called the next step in attempting to restart the peace process, following her recent visit to the region.

Palestinian negotiators are due to meet with Ross later this week.

Following the Israelis' three-hour meeting with Ross, Naveh told reporters that contrary to

reports, Israel was not proposing a halt to settlement building in Har Homa or elsewhere as part of a package to get talks resumed.

Israel also did not suggest combining the three scheduled IDF redeployments, he said.

Naveh said that the four suicide bombers were on a list of 88 suspects that Israel turned over to the PA several months ago asking that they be detained.

Naveh said that relations with the Palestinians have deteriorated in recent days because the PA has released "dozens" of imprisoned terror suspects since Albright returned to the US. He called it a "clear example of the lack of effort by the PA in terms of fighting terrorism."

Israel is prepared to progress in the peace process, but first must see the PA address its security obligations, Naveh said.

"The main thing that is prevent-

## 1/3 of frozen meat samples found to have excessive bacteria - survey

By JUDY SEGEL

The Israel Consumer Council, which found excessive bacteria in four of 12 random samples of frozen processed meat, yesterday called for the establishment of a state food authority to coordinate supervision and standards.

The unappetizing findings were "not a representative sample" of all the country's meat supplies, said ICC director Ariella Ravdel. But she said they did raise concern about food hygiene in processing plants.

At a news conference called by the ICC and the Israel Veterinary Association yesterday, both organizations said that in the past year, 308 retail stores were checked for hygiene and product quality. Of these, 202 received a "Green Tag," denoting high quality stan-

dards.

Taking part in the meeting were representatives of four chains - Co-Op Blue Square, Co-Op North-Hypershuk, Supersol/Hypercol, and MacDonald's - many of whose branches have already received the Green Tag.

Ravdel said the ICC decided to launch the Green Tag campaign after receiving many complaints about the quality of meat products in various parts of the country. She said the problem was partly due to meat being sold from animals that died from disease instead of supervised slaughter.

Ravdel also cautioned consumers to purchase meat only from recognized sources.

Dr. Yisrael Glass, head of the veterinary association, said that three of the 12 samples tested in the Health Ministry's veterinary labs were found to have high levels of bacteria, including some that cause gastrointestinal disorders and food poisoning.

The bacteria are most dangerous to infants, toddlers, the elderly and people with chronic diseases; some of the bacteria release toxins that remain pathogenic even after cooking.

"The source of the bacteria could be in the manufacturing process, from infections on the hands or in the throats of food workers, or from improper transport or storage of frozen meat," Glass added.

The four samples with bacteria counts higher than permitted were processed by Pikanti, Tik-Toro and Tiv Ta'am, other products by Pikanti and Tik-Toro, as well as from Tobolet, Tibonveal and International Food, did not exceed permitted rates of bacteria. Representatives of Tik-Toro and Tiv Ta'am charged tests showing excessive bacterial levels were "misleading and insufficient."

Health Ministry Food Service Division director Dr. Brian Cousin said that all raw meat has bacteria and that it must be well-cooked to kill the bacteria.

He added that well-cooked meat should be safe if purchased from reputable companies in reliable retail outlets. Dr. Herbert Singer, head of the Food Service Division's veterinary unit, said most Western countries do not have bacterial standards for raw meat products. The greatest danger, he said, was pathogenic bacteria from raw meat getting into contact with cooked meat in the home or in restaurants.

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## NEWS

in brief

## Friedman removal widely condemned

Labor and Likud leaders condemned the ouster of Na'amat leader Ofra Friedman by the Histadrut yesterday. Labor head MK Ehud Barak said that without taking sides in the dispute between Friedman and Histadrut head Amir Peretz, he felt that "if there are differences of opinion, they should be aired in party forums."

The dispute was apparently over Friedman's efforts to exclude Na'amat day care centers from the latest labor sanctions.

A Likud statement called Friedman's removal "another failure for the chairman of the Labor Party."

## Closure eased further

The IDF Spokesman announced an easing of the closure yesterday. From this morning, an additional 4,000 workers and 1,000 merchants will be allowed to enter Israel while 4,000 PA workers will be permitted free travel within the West Bank.

## Search continues for missing woman

One week after she disappeared there is no trace of Tamar Brez, 33, who is being sought in Ramat Gan, where she was seen last Wednesday. Dozens of volunteers, including police and civil defense, have searched for the past three days near the town's stadium and Home Center. Her abandoned car was found near the Home Center parking lot.

## One killed in road accident

Avraham Bozaglo, 39, from Beit Shemesh, was killed yesterday in a traffic accident on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway near the Lod interchange and a passenger in his car was seriously injured when his car collided with a van in front of him and he veered into the concrete crash barrier, police said. In another accident a motorcyclist was seriously injured yesterday when he skidded and crashed in Rishon LeZion.

## Twelfth graders plan to strike today

Twelfth grade pupils across the country are staying away from classes today to protest the cancellation of school trips due to the ongoing dispute between the Secondary School Teachers Association and the Education Ministry.

National Student and Youth Council spokesman Galit Eliasi said the pupils would give the ministry and teachers a week to work out the problem, or else they would try to convince pupils in other grades to stay away from classes as well.

The dispute stems from a failure to pay the teachers extra for accompanying pupils on school trips.

## Interim report: Bird downed F-16

A bird that crashed into the canopy of an air force F-16B trainer caused it to crash into Machtesh Ramon on September 7, according to an interim report on the accident, released yesterday. The bird, a raptor weighing about one kilogram, shattered the canopy and injured the instructor pilot sitting in the rear seat, causing him and his pupil to eject. The remains of the bird were found during an examination of the wreckage.

Following similar incidents, the air force banned low-level, high-speed flights across bird migration routes in the spring and fall. The board of inquiry is continuing its investigation.

## Window on PM's plane cracks in mid-flight

A window cracked yesterday in the plane flying Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu back to Israel after a visit to Austria, and the pilot lowered the aircraft from 30,000 to 15,000 feet to reduce pressure on the cabin.

Netanyahu's air force plane was half an hour late in arriving, and after landing more problems were found. Some of the seats wobbled, and an oxygen valve on the inside was taped shut.

"I was thinking of just one thing," a relieved Netanyahu said with his feet firmly back on the ground. "This plane has to be replaced quickly." IAF technicians began to investigate what caused the crack.

## Stones thrown in Jerusalem

Palestinian youths threw stones at two locations in Jerusalem yesterday morning. At the A-Ram junction, three youths were arrested in possession of flammable liquid, after youths threw stones at passing cars and blocked the road. Border policemen fired two shots in the air to disperse a crowd. Youths from Jebi Mukaber threw stones at the adjoining neighborhood of Armon Hanatziv, damaging two cars. No one was injured, and one boy was detained for questioning.

## Opposition slams PM taking credit for GSS achievement

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN

The opposition yesterday criticized Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for allegedly trying to take credit for General Security Service achievements in investigating the Jerusalem suicide bombings.

Labor and Meretz MKs also accused Netanyahu of abusing military censorship by preventing Israeli media from reporting breakthroughs in the investigation until he returned from Austria yesterday.

Opposition leader Ehud Barak took issue with what he called government attempts to make it look as though instructions from the Prime Ministry rather than GSS prowess led to the discovery of the bombers' identities.

After meeting Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel, Barak dismissed "the illusion some people are trying to spread, that instructions or agreements outside the GSS brought about this achievement."

"The GSS's triumph has nothing

to do with any instructions or agreements. The GSS has been working all the time to obtain security. Its prowess has been built up gradually over years of work," Barak added.

MK Haim Oron of Meretz urged Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to see to it that Netanyahu does not exploit military censorship for his own publicity.

Oron said he was astonished that the censor withheld information from the Israeli media, citing state security, after the prime minister and his entourage had leaked details to the press.

"This was intended to enable Netanyahu to attribute the fight against terrorism to himself, and for this he withheld information until he returned from abroad," Oron said.

He also noted the reports were censored although the foreign press was able to publish many details.

MK Ori Orr of Labor, dismissed Netanyahu's statement that the GSS, at his instructions, was working independently of Palestinian security services.

Orr said the GSS started develop-

ing independent methods of intelligence gathering once the Oslo Accords were signed, at the instructions of late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and then foreign minister, Shimon Peres.

"Netanyahu is making cynical use of the GSS by leaking drips of information, but what bothers me more is that he's spreading rumors that he instructed the GSS to work independently," Orr said. "That is groundless, and creates the false illusion that the GSS has changed its methods, or is identified with one prime minister or another."

Orr also said he believed the investigation results were published prematurely and should have been kept secret for three or four more days.

Meretz leader MK Yossi Sarid said it's an illusion to think the GSS can fight terrorism effectively without cooperating with the Palestinians.

Sarah Honig adds: Communications Minister Limor Livnat reacted angrily to Barak's criticism, calling it "petty grudging."

"The sad part is that Barak knows only too well that the last Labor government relinquished the security of Israel's citizens to Arafat and his men. All that happened since proves the recklessness of their policy," Livnat asserted.

CORRECTION: The Avi Chai prize, is to be awarded this year to two individuals, Ruth Calderon Ben-Shahar and Motti Bar-On, the co-founders of Elul, and not as published yesterday.

Ya'alon: Arafat could do more  
PA head to Darawshe: I'm doing everything I can to fight terrorism

By BAT-SHEVA TSUR and DAVID RUDGE

Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat is not intervening to stop Fatah contingency plans for possible future violence against Israelis, the head of Military Intelligence, OC Military Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said yesterday.

Ya'alon also charged before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that the PA has released about 40 of the 100 terror suspects arrested before US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's visit.

He said the freed detainees weren't questioned.

Ya'alon alleged that these were further indications that the PA was not making a serious effort to

uproot terrorist infrastructure.

Arafat is taking certain steps "to earn good points" with the Americans, Ya'alon said. "But this is not a no-holds-barred war against the terrorist infrastructure."

Ya'alon noted that while the infrastructure for suicide bombers came from Area A, which is fully under Palestinian control, the suicide bombers themselves, for the most part, were from Area B where Israel controls security.

Using Area B as a recruitment base made it possible for Hamas to act "without embarrassing the PA," Ya'alon said.

"The infrastructure is in Area A, but they recruit the suicide bombers from B. It is not clear from which area the terrorists leave [on their mission]," he said.

Ya'alon added that the Palestinians have given Israel all the details about the suicide bombers, and that therefore it wasn't clear why Arafat had insisted they came from abroad.

Nevertheless, intelligence assessments were that Arafat has no interest in fomenting unrest, and that this is the main reason why there were no serious riots over the entry of Jewish families to Ras al-Amud last week.

"Arafat is definitely in control. He can light or extinguish the flames whenever he wants. There are no spontaneous, popular outbursts," Ya'alon reportedly said.

Arafat, meanwhile, said this week that the PA is doing everything in its power to fight terrorism and those behind it in the areas under its control.

He stressed, however, that there was no such thing as 100 per cent success in the fight against terror, as Israel itself had discovered.

Arafat made the comments to Democratic Arab Party MKs Abdul Wahab Darawshe and Taleb a-Sanna when they met him at his headquarters in Gaza on Monday night.

Darawshe said Arafat was unaware at the time of any evidence linking residents of areas under the PA's control or in the West Bank generally with the two recent suicide bombings in Jerusalem.

"In our conversation we did not know about the intention to publicize details [about the identity of the bombers]," said Darawshe.

"He said that the Palestinian Authority was united in this and

was doing its utmost to prevent all acts of terrorism against Israel because he is convinced that terrorism first and foremost is hurting the interests of the Palestinian people."

"But there is no 100 per cent success. Israel has not had such a success rate, nor have other countries like Britain and even America in their fight against terrorism," Darawshe said. Arafat had called for an end to the closure which he said was a form of collective punishment which was harming the Palestinian economy and innocent people whose only aim was to support themselves and their families.

"He stressed that the closure was playing into the hands of the enemies of peace and was designed to weaken his position and that of the

## Blood tests identified bombers

Palestinian mothers and fathers in a West Bank town said yesterday they were made to give blood for genetic tests which Israel said showed their sons were suicide bombers.

Israel said it had proof four bombers in Jerusalem suicide attacks that killed 20 Israelis were activists in the Islamic militant group Hamas who lived in Azira Shamalya, a town of 12,000 near Nablus.

Israel identified the four attackers as Palestinians in their 20s based on what it said yesterday were genetic blood tests and intelligence gathered by its security services.

For three days Israeli security services held the town under siege while hunting for clues to the attacks in Mahaneh Yehuda on July 30 and on Rehov Ben-Yehuda on September 4, residents said.

Hadida Sawalha, identified as the mother of 24-year-old Bashar Sawalha, showed Israel's Channel 1 television her arms, saying: "Here they took blood from me. They took from both my arms." Asked what the Israelis told her at the time, she told the television: "What do they have to say? They said, 'Where's your son?' I said, 'My son isn't here. Allah is with my son. Fear not, he won't do a thing.'" She said the son - identified by Israel as one of the four suicide attackers - had been missing for a year.

The four had been arrested by the Palestinian Authority in a crackdown on Hamas following suicide attacks that killed 57 people in Israel in 1996 but had escaped from a Palestinian prison a year ago, an Israeli statement said.

A 35-year-old resident, Mustafa Sleiman al-Shuli, said the men had occasionally appeared in the town before the bombings but had not been seen since.

"After the last two attacks they disappeared and nobody knows anything about them," he said.

A bald man with a white moustache, interviewed by the television, said he and his wife had also given blood.



IDF soldiers run after Palestinian stonethrowers yesterday during clashes at Azira Shamalya, the West Bank village north of Nablus where the four suicide bombers lived.

## BOMBERS

Continued from Page 1

Abbas claimed that statements by the PA declaring the terrorists were from abroad stemmed from information they had been given by US and Israeli officials. He also stressed that Azira Shamalya is in Area B under Israeli security control.

PA Jerusalem representative Faisal Hussein said "mass arrests is not the way to fight terror and protect Israeli security. The way is to implement the Oslo agreement. We do not agree with the arrest campaign in Azira and we will be ready to protect security in Area B when it comes under our control."

He added that it was Israel, not the PA, which first said the Mahaneh Yehuda bombers came from abroad.

Earlier in the day, Arafat adviser Ahmed Tibi accused Netanyahu of spreading disinformation regarding the suicide bombers.

"Anyone who says the attackers came from inside the Palestinian Authority areas is misleading the public and not saying the truth," Tibi said. "Within days it will be shown that these suicides came from outside the territory of the Palestinian Authority, under the nose of Mr. Netanyahu himself. He has the responsibility, and any attempt to put the responsibility on the broad shoulders of Mr. Arafat is conspicuous and totally rejected."

The identification of the bombers came several days after heavy censorship had been imposed on all details of the investigation.

Palestinian Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub said on Channel 1 last night he had received no information regarding IDF operations in the Nablus area over the past few days.

Since the security operation began on Sunday scores of Palestinians were detained for questioning.

The families of the four bombers expressed disbelief and amazement on hearing the news. Shouli's father told Channel 1 last night that security forces had taken blood samples from family members 10 days ago.

Security forces searched the village, taking blood samples from relatives for DNA testing, and returned several days later after positive identifications were made. The officials said last night that intensive operations are still under way to identify the fifth suicide bomber and uncover the Hamas infrastructure behind the recent bomb attacks in the capital.

Late Saturday night intensive searches were conducted in Samaria and curfews were clamped on several villages,

including Azira Shamalya. The IDF told the local Palestinian policemen in the village to remain in their headquarters. Yesterday, village youth stoned troops, but were dispersed by the local policemen.

"Everyone is too frightened to go outside," said Amer Amer, 40, a dentist.

The village stores were closed yesterday and village residents expressed disbelief that the four men had carried out the terrorist attacks.

The four were arrested by the PA in February and March 1996 and escaped from the Palestinian prison in Nablus six months later. Following their escape they were declared fugitives and sought by the GSS regarding shooting at IDF vehicles in Ein Bidan near Nablus in December 1996.

Their names also appeared on a list of 88 Hamas and Islamic

activists that was handed over to the PA by Israel seeking their arrest shortly after the Mahaneh Yehuda bombing.

Elli Wohlgelemer adds: Police Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said yesterday the Jerusalem bombings resulted from the PA's failure to act against the terrorist infrastructure, since it is now clear the attacks originated from the self-rule area.

He spoke during a tour of the capital with Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki and senior officers.

Yitzhaki and his staff briefed Hefetz on the problems Jerusalem police face, as well as on preparations for the holiday season. Hefetz said the force would be on high alert over the next month, especially in Jerusalem.

Sarah Honig and Mohammed Najib contributed to this report.

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IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

## Doing it our way

The recent IDF actions in the village near Nablus where the Jerusalem suicide bombers allegedly originated are the type of actions the security services have been taking for years. A village is surrounded, a closure declared, suspects rounded up, interrogated and arrested.

These are scenes the country became well acquainted with during the intifada, when Israel was the sole sovereign in the West Bank. But even since the signing of the Oslo Accords, and the division of the West Bank into a patchwork of zones under Israeli, Palestinian and joint control, the IDF has initiated similar types of actions to crush the Hamas infrastructure.

What is different this time, said Oren Shahor, former government coordinator in the territories, is that these acts ought now to be taken in coordination with the Palestinian Authority but are not. Shahor said that when Israel acted in Area B in the past, it was done after consultation with the Palestinian Authority. In some cases Israel provided the intelligence information, and the Palestinian police made the arrests.

Area B refers to the rural areas in the West Bank where Palestinians have civilian authority, but Israel has the overriding security authority and can enter as it pleases. But now, since there is no military or intelligence cooperation with the Palestinian

Authority, the security services are acting alone, Shahor said. "I see what is happening not so much as a turning point, as much as it is a reflection of the reality on the ground," Shahor said. "There is no dialogue, neither security nor intelligence cooperation. But the security services still have to provide security. So in the absence of coordination, they are doing it on their own." The Palestinian Authority, Shahor said, is likely to understand from these actions that Israel will do what it feels it has to, with or without them.

"It would be preferable to do it together, because their intelligence is very good," Shahor said. "They are there, inside Area A [the areas under total Palestinian control], we are not." But the recent moves shows that even if there is no cooperation, Israel will act.

Shahor said he does not think the recent moves are a prelude to an IDF incursion into Area A. "Both sides," he said, "understand that this would lead to a collapse of the agreements." As far as the Palestinians are concerned, said Hadas MK Hashem Mahameed, the action near Nablus, and the massive IDF presence in the areas, is tantamount to "a renewed occupation." "The Palestinians see this as an affront," he said. "Once again there are soldiers everywhere, and curfews and arrests. It is happening at a time where there is no safe passage from Jericho to Gaza, no port, no airport. It's as if the military administra-

tion is back," Mahameed said that when the IDF goes into Area B with such force, without coordination with the PA, it is interpreted by Palestinians as "a provocation, and as an affront to the PA. The significance is re-occupation. Now people are seeing more army, not less." Mahameed said that such moves only increase the frustration of the Palestinians and undermine their support for the PA, since they see it as impotent.

Arguments that the recent moves are meant to crush the terror infrastructure which Yasser Arafat has failed to do, fall — at least in Mahameed's case — on deaf ears.

"How can Arafat crush the infrastructure," Mahameed says, "if he only has control of a small percentage of the territory." The premise to Mahameed's argument is that Arafat is doing what he can in the areas he controls — a premise that the head of military intelligence Moshe Ya'alon yesterday told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee was fanciful.



### Ras al-Amud protest

Border policemen stand guard yesterday as some 200 Palestinian high school pupils protest at the Moskowitz property in Jerusalem's Ras al-Amud area. The pupils chanted 'Uprising forever' and 'Arafat, we'll be martyrs if you want us to be,' and shouted for the yeshiva students to leave. They threw stones at police and attempted to block the road with overturned garbage cans, until police dispersed them with tear gas. No injuries or arrests were reported.

(This: Eli Weisberger, Photo: Reuters)

## Mordechai warns Lebanese Army: Don't shoot at IDF

By DAVID RUDGE and BAT SHEVA TSUR

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai warned yesterday that fire would be returned at the Lebanese Army, if its soldiers shoot at the IDF.

On a visit to front-line troops in the security zone, Mordechai said that "in those incidents in which the Lebanese Army opens fire at our forces, on the ground, in the air or at sea, it will be fired upon."

"Therefore I warn the Lebanese Army not to participate in the activities that are taking place in Lebanon," Mordechai said.

According to the army's intelligence chief, OC Military Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, the Lebanese Army has begun opening ground fire at IDF and SLA forces during the latest clashes in south Lebanon. He told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that Lebanese Army forces have also been directing anti-aircraft fire at Israeli planes.

Accompanied by Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Amnon Lipkin Shahak, OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. Amiram Levine, and the IDF's commander in Lebanon Brig. Gen. Eli Amitai, Mordechai also met with South Lebanese Army commander Gen. Antoine Lahad and SLA officers.

On a visit to the IDF's Ishiyeh position in the eastern sector, Mordechai reiterated the importance of the security zone and the need for the IDF's presence there.

He told reporters he was not aware of any concrete steps to resume talks between Israel and Syria, but that such moves would be welcome once the Syrians agreed to discuss the issues on the agenda.

Mordechai said negotiations were continuing through the International Red Cross over the return of the body of Third Pery Officer Itamar Ily, who was killed in the botched naval commando raid deep inside Lebanon on September 5.

During Mordechai's visit to the zone, Hizbullah gunmen opened fire with mortars and

light weapons at IDF troops in the eastern sector. There were no casualties and IDF gunners returned fire.

Afterwards, Mordechai visited IDF troops on the Mt. Hermon "snow" position to review the state of readiness in the area.

"In parallel to the efforts we are making to resume talks with Syria and try to reach a peace accord, it is essential for IDF forces to maintain a high state of alert and readiness in general and in the Hermon area in particular," said Mordechai.

In the afternoon, Mordechai visited Mughar village in lower Galilee, to see the family of field doctor Maj. Maher Daghash, who was killed in the aborted naval raid.

Daghash, 26, was part of a rescue unit sent to the scene. He was killed while trying to treat the casualties.

"We have no alternative but to extend the hand of peace, which we are doing everyday to the Syrians, the Lebanese and the Palestinians. We want to achieve peace, but we also want to achieve life and security for all of us — all residents of Israel," Mordechai said.

In his briefing to the Knesset committee, Ya'alon also said that Hizbullah was following the internal debate in Israel over calls for a withdrawal from Lebanon. He added that despite the latest clashes, the guerrillas weren't changing their tactics or commitments to the Grapes of Wrath agreements.

He said that Syria was not interested, at this stage, in a unilateral Israeli withdrawal because this would be perceived as a Hizbullah victory.

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## NEWS

in brief

### Asbestos classrooms out

Classrooms made of asbestos will be disused following an order from Education Minister Zevulun Hammer who ordered them replaced with classrooms that meet safety requirements. Hammer said the ministry must act to ensure that pupils and teachers work in "friendly" and safe buildings which do not pose health hazards. Union of Local Authority, Health Ministry and Environment Ministry officials are to meet with ministry representatives in the coming days to tackle the problem.

Artye Dean Cohen

### Young Israel joins anti-Indyk campaign

The Zionist Organization of America, the National Council of Young Israel and the Jewish War Veterans are opposing Martin Indyk as assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, but his nomination will probably be confirmed this week by a Senate committee, sources said yesterday.

Indyk, the US envoy to Israel, has wide support in other parts of the Jewish community. His approval is expected in spite of President Bill Clinton's opposition to Senate efforts to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Marilyn Henry

### Education Ministry blasts Treasury

Education Ministry Director-General Ben Zion Dell yesterday expressed disappointment with the Secondary School Teachers Association's decision not to accompany school trips, thereby preventing many such trips from taking place so far this school year.

Dell said the current system in which government ministries do not have the authority to act regarding wage agreements limits what his and other ministries can do in such cases. "The Education Ministry, which is the largest employer in the economy with some 100,000 employees, cannot pay a single agora to anyone without the Finance Ministry's approval," he said.

film

## Havel tells press conference:

# Netanyahu sincere about peace

By MICHAEL YUDELMAN  
and BATSHEVA TSUR

Czech Republic President Vaclav Havel asserted yesterday Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is interested in advancing the peace process.

"My impression is that Prime Minister Netanyahu wants to continue the peace process and achieve a reconciliation with the neighboring countries. Maybe the methods of the talks and the rules will be different from Netanyahu's predecessors, but it's certainly not true that he is not interested in peace," Havel said.

Havel spoke at a joint press conference with Netanyahu, after signing an extensive investment protection agreement between Israel and the Czech Republic. The two leaders spent Havel's second day in Israel in private talks focusing on the peace process.

Speaking at a state dinner which he hosted last night for Czech president Václav Havel, President Ezer Weizman said: "The legacy of the late Yitzhak Rabin and Anwar Sadat commands us to find a way to bring peace to the region." Turning to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was also present, Weizman added: "I pray that our prime minister will bring the fulfillment of the legacy of these two great leaders."

Havel said that the Czech



PM Benjamin Netanyahu gestures to Czech President Vaclav Havel during their joint press conference yesterday.

(Reuters)

Republic which had supported Israel with arms in its struggle for independence would now extend full political support in the search for peace.

Netanyahu said Havel's "achievements for humanity in Central Europe have radiated throughout the world and have been one of the main forces that brought about the collapse

of totalitarianism. This has brought a new era of hope for all of us, and I think what we're trying to do today is to seize the future together."

Netanyahu suggested there may

be an increased role for European nations once the faltering peace process is back on track and a figure such as Havel would be welcome on the scene.

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## Nazis smuggled Jewish loot to Latin America - report

By MARILYN HENRY

**NEW YORK** - A Brazilian court battle over the legacy of a German-born pawnbroker appears to provide the first proof that Jewish assets, stolen by the Nazis, found their way to Latin America. The *New York Times* reported in yesterday's editions.

The battle in Sao Paulo is over the \$4 million estate of Albert Blume, who died 14 years ago, leaving a fortune in watches, rings, gold bars and gold teeth, the *Times* said.

The Blume case "appears to be the first concrete discovery of a perpetrator's account, which is where we believe the lion's share of the Jewish wealth was hidden," Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, told the *Times*.

Rabbi Henry Sobel, who heads the Brazilian commission investigating Nazi war criminals who fled there with Jewish loot, contends that Blume, a member of the Nazi Party, was sent to Brazil in

1938 as a spy and became a conduit for Jewish loot.

Some contend he was holding the loot for Walter Blume, who was convicted at Nuremberg, but whose death sentence was commuted.

Albert Blume's aunt, Margarida Blume, has been fighting in court to claim the fortune. Her nephew's defenders say that Blume was a pawnbroker who fled to Brazil to escape Nazi persecution of homosexuals and that the gold was collateral for loans, the newspaper said. The Blume case raises new questions about Operation Odessa, a German plan near the end of

World War II to smuggle senior Nazi officials to South America, and why South America provided such a hospitable haven.

The commission led by Sobel, the chief rabbi of Brazil, is trying to determine where Blume's wealth came from. A lawyer for the Blume family, Fernando Simas, said there was no way to prove the source of the goods, but he acknowledged that they included gold teeth and

fillings. Sobel's commission also is reporting on dormant accounts opened by Nazis who fled to Brazil that are worth \$15 million.

The Nazis who found haven in South America included Adolf Eichmann, Klaus Barbie and Dr. Josef Mengele.

Blume has been described as a key figure in Operation Odessa, according to research by Ben Abraham, a Holocaust survivor and historian. According to Abraham, Blume's papers include identity documents and Gestapo promotions belonging to Col. Walter Blume, who ordered the destruction of the ghetto at Vilnius. Walter Blume, who commanded Unit 7-A of Einsatzgruppe B, said 200 civilians; the judge estimated 1,000. He was convicted and sentenced to death. That sentence was reduced in 1951 to 25 years, and was reduced further by German judges in 1955. He is thought to have gone to Buenos Aires after he was released. It is not known whether he is alive.

## Swiss apologize to 80-year-old Israeli for handover to Nazis

**BASEL** - The Basel government yesterday apologized to an 80-year-old Holocaust survivor and paid him 50,000 Swiss francs (\$ 34,500) compensation for turning him over to the Nazis during World War II.

The cantonal (state) council disclosed that Basel police had taken Eli Carmel, now an Israeli citizen, to the nearby German border in 1939 and gave him to German police.

Because he was Jewish, the Nazis sent him to Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where he spent the next five years until he was able to emigrate to Palestine.

Basel's president, Veli Vischer, said the government learned of the case when Carmel asked for compensation earlier this year.

"I'm shocked and upset" by the case, said Vischer.

The cantonal government said it was convinced it was an isolated case.

It sent a letter inviting Carmel to visit Basel and accept the apology in person for the action that led to the "severe physical and psychological suffering" he endured.

Carmel was born Hans Weinberg in Vienna in 1917. He came to Switzerland as a tourist in 1938 to get ready to emigrate to Palestine.

In July 1939, Swiss federal authorities ordered his deportation and Carmel appealed.

Nonetheless, Basel police arrested him on Oct. 25, 1939, after the outbreak of war, and passed him to the German police in Loerach.

## Yeltsin blames Israel for Mideast crisis

**MOSCOW** - Russian President Boris Yeltsin blamed Israel yesterday for a deadlock in Middle East peace talks and called on the US to pressure Israel to get the process back on track.

Decrying the weak role in the Middle East played by Moscow, which commanded great influence in the region in Soviet times, Yeltsin said that Russia also needed to step up its efforts.

"The Middle East crisis is continuing and it will be very difficult to overcome, largely I think because of Israel's unconstructive position," Yeltsin told a group of reporters after talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"The United States has some influence on Israel and should work here more actively although we too should do more in this direction," he said.

Negotiations have been stalled since March when Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave the go-ahead for work to start on Har Homa.

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright criticized both Palestinians and Israelis during a visit to Israel last week.

Yeltsin, however, rejected allegations that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat was to blame for recent bomb attacks that have deepened the crisis.

"One should not blame Mr. Arafat today for terrorist acts, that's not serious," he said.

He said that, as a co-sponsor, he supported the principle of negotiations based on a "land for peace" formula and that Mubarak wanted more Russian involvement in the peace process.

"Russia's presence in the Arab world, and in the Middle East in particular, is clearly insufficient... We must have a constant high-level presence there," Yeltsin said.

Mubarak called on Russian companies to develop other long-term projects, including those in the military, suggesting that Russia help maintain Soviet-built aircraft and other weapons still used by the Egyptian armed forces.

(Reuters)

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## Poll: Ethiopian immigrants want greater integration

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

About 90 percent of Ethiopian Jewish immigrants who graduated from state religious high schools would be willing for their children to intermarry with other Israelis, a survey conducted for the Education Ministry shows.

The survey, released yesterday, covered a random sample of 120 graduates of five years ago. Most had immigrated in the mid-1980's as part of Operation Moses.

Dr. Shalva Weill, senior researcher at Hebrew University's National Council of Jewish Women Research Institute for Innovation in Education, said the data indicates a strong desire among Ethiopians to integrate into Israeli society.

"I hope that the policy makers and particularly the Ministry of Education will be able to learn from the research and improve the education they give to Ethiopian Jews," she said.

The findings included the following:

- 84% completed 12th grade, as opposed to 72% in the general population, indicating a low dropout level among Ethiopians.
- Only 15% said they earned matriculation certificates, as opposed to 30% in the overall population.
- 52% were satisfied with their education, while 27% were not.
- Half complained about the curriculum's absence of material on Ethiopian life.
- 56% have served in the IDF.
- All had married other Ethiopians, except for one woman who

married a member of the Bnei Israel community from India.

Half said however, that they would have been willing to marry other Israelis. Almost all said they would be willing for their children to intermarry with other Israelis.

• A third are unemployed, while more than half work as skilled or unskilled laborers.

• 41% including some married couples, live with parents, and only 18.5% have their own apartments.

• 59% reported they had not visited a non-Ethiopian Israeli friend in their last year of school.

• 81% rejected the suggestion that any neighbors disliked them because of their skin color, while 19.5% reported experiencing incidents of discrimination.

From a mainstream religious viewpoint, the graduates became more secular, with 68% not traveling on Shabbat as compared to 84% while at school.

But the graduates remained more loyal to Ethiopian customs such as eating cold food on Shabbat and not eating yogurt on Passover.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer said yesterday that priority would continue to be given to closing gaps between Ethiopian and other Israeli pupils.

He said that NIS 34 million were being invested toward this goal. Some 17,000 Ethiopian pupils receive special assistance, and Amharic language textbooks are being prepared.

Dozens of needy Ethiopian families recently received personal computers, a ministry spokesman said.



Food for the needy

With the approach of the Rosh Hashanah holiday, volunteers for Ilah, an Israeli organization that helps the handicapped, and Equilibri, a volunteer group founded in France, hand out packages of staples such as flour, sugar and rice to the elderly and handicapped yesterday in the Katamon section of Jerusalem.

(Brynn McBarney)

## Stolen Torah scrolls held in Jordan

Samaritans told to pay \$1m. ransom

HAIM SHAPIRO

Two members of the Nabulus Samaritan community have seen Torah manuscripts stolen from their synagogue for ransom two and a half years ago, in a home in Amman.

The dramatic story began in March 1995 when early morning worshippers arrived for prayers, only to find that the synagogue had been broken into and the two Torah manuscripts, one in the form of a scroll, the other a bound codex, missing. Members of the community contacted both the Israeli and Palestinian Authority security forces to no avail.

Samaritans hold the Torah, but no other part of the Bible, sacred. They number under 600 in Nabulus, near Mount Gerizim, and in Holon.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat succeeded in getting the thieves to reduce their demand from \$7 million to \$2 million and learned that the manuscripts had been smuggled into Jordan, where a member of the Nabulus Samaritan community was allowed to view them briefly in the back seat of a car.

Last month, Shalom, the son of the Samaritan High Priest, was allowed to view the scroll and manuscript in a home in Amman. The

thieves also told the Samaritans that they were lowering the ransom demand to \$1 million.

Shalom, son of the High Priest Amram Hachoben, who holds the seat reserved for a Samaritan on the Palestinian legislative council, told the Samaritan bi-monthly AB that he was contacted by the thieves in his hotel room. Together with another non-Samaritan member of the council he was taken to a home somewhere in Amman.

A masked man led them to a room, told them to sit down and left. A few minutes later he re-entered the room and put down a small suitcase between the two. Only a few minutes later when the masked man again came in and told them to open the suitcase did they dare to do so.

They opened the case to find the two manuscripts intact, although a few pieces of parchment had broken off from the scroll and were lying in the bottom of the suitcase. After half an hour, the masked man again appeared, shut the suitcase and took it away.

The next day, the two reported the incident to the Jordanian security forces, who told them that the Jordanian police had not ceased their own efforts to recover the manuscripts for the Samaritans.

## Campaign under way to give Israel seat on UN Security Council

By MARILYN HENRY

"Why is it that [Iran, Cuba, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria], all cited by the US State Department as sponsors of terrorism, are eligible to serve rotating terms on the Security Council, yet Israel, a democratic nation and member of the UN since 1950, is not?" asked an advertisement sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, appearing in national and international newspapers yesterday.

As the 52nd General Assembly opens this week the ad urges an end to discrimination against Israel at the UN.

Israel is excluded from a seat on the Security Council and other key UN bodies because it is not a member of one of the regional groups through which the rotating candidates for these councils are

chosen. Israel has been seeking temporary admission to the "Western European and Others" geographical group until it is able to become part of its natural regional bloc, the Arab Group.

The full-page ad appeared in *The New York Times* as government leaders from more than 160 nations were in Manhattan for the opening of the UN assembly. Foreign Minister David Levy is scheduled to address the assembly next Monday. The ad features two vertical columns. One column, titled "Countries eligible to sit on the United Nations Security Council," lists 184 member states, including Iran, Cuba, Libya, North Korea, Sudan and Syria, all cited as sponsors of terrorism by the State Department. The second column — "Countries not eligible to sit on the United Nations Security Council" — lists one state, Israel.

## Four arrested in health fund scam

By JUDY SEGEL

Acree police have arrested four sales agents contracted by Kupat Holim Leumit on suspicion of having transferred thousands of Kupat Holim Clalit members to Leumit without the members' permission, a Clalit spokeswoman said yesterday.

The four, including three women and a man from Nazareth and Magar, are accused of calling people and introducing themselves as staff of the Central Bureau of Statistics or the National Insurance Institute.

They would allegedly ask for identity card numbers and other personal details and use them to fill out forms to transfer the person's membership to Leumit, without their knowledge.

The suspects, whose names weren't given, were arrested Monday night and brought yesterday before the magistrates' court, which extended their detention for another 24 hours.

The four were allegedly hired by

Kupat Holim Leumit to try to attract new members to the fund, but they weren't authorized to resort to such means.

Clalit officials said they would ask the NII not to honor the forms it receives through the end of October for transferring members to Leumit, until the matter is sorted out.

The fund also plans to publish advertisements warning members about such tricks.

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza is in the process of amending a law that would make such fraud impossible by requiring anyone who wants to change health fund membership to file a form at a post office.

The change is expected to go into effect on January 1. In the meantime health funds are actively competing with one another, with some funds offering cash prizes and coupons to try and win new members. Millions of shekels have been spent on such incentives in the last two and a half years.

## IMA boycotts government

By JUDY SEGEL

The Israel Medical Association decided at an emergency meeting yesterday to sever contact with government offices until an agreement is honored adding doctors' positions at public hospitals.

IMA chairman Dr. Yoram Blachar accused the government of creating "a lack of confidence" by reneging on the agreement signed last March, which called for adding 360 jobs to public hospitals over the next four years.

As a result of the IMA's deci-

sion, doctors will not participate in any forums with the Health and Finance Ministries, including national advisory councils that counsel the health minister on professional matters, quality-control committees and bodies that help prepare legislation.

Meanwhile, the cabinet will hold a special meeting on the health system funding crisis at 11 a.m. today. Yesterday's sanctions, which canceled non-emergency operations in the center of the country, will not be repeated anywhere today. However, the IMA said sanctions will resume next Sunday through Tuesday.

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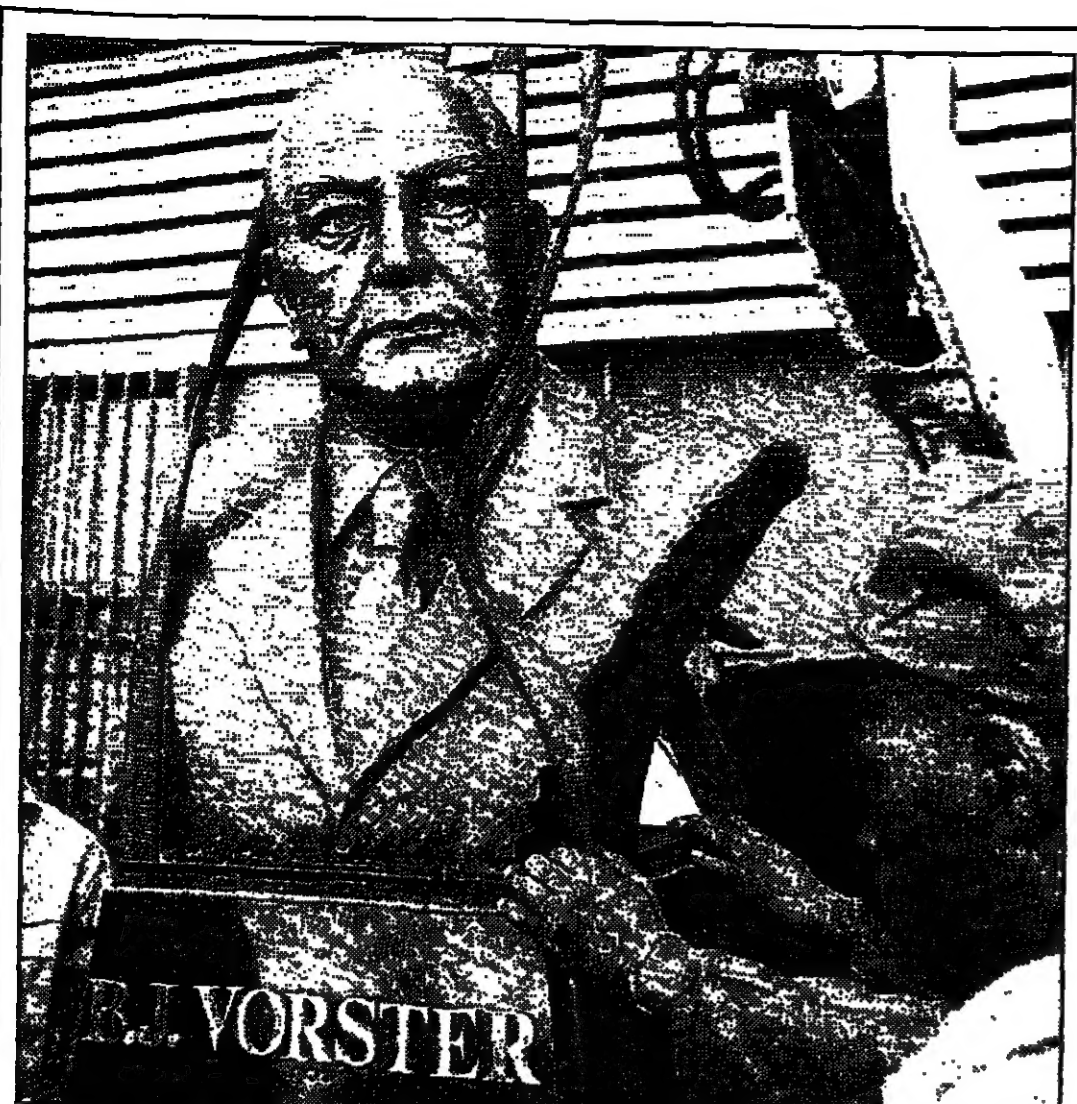
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### Vorster Heads for Museum

A bust of John Vorster, the last overlord of apartheid in South Africa, is removed from outside Johannesburg Central Police Station, formerly known as John Vorster Square, this week. The bust had been in the station since 1968, when the station was officially opened by Vorster, then prime minister. The bust will now be placed in a police museum. (AP)

## Melbourne's glitzy facelift

Australia's 'second city' is about to transform with a glitzy waterfront which may sport the world's tallest tower

By MARK BENDEICH

MELBOURNE — Australia's second-biggest city, Melbourne, plans to upstage its old rival Sydney with a \$2.5 billion (US\$1.8b.) waterfront face-lift which could include the world's tallest tower.

The southern city, an industrial center bereft of the sparkling waters and spectacular rock escarpments of Sydney, has already enticed developers to start work on what is billed as the world's boldest privately funded waterfront development.

"Melbourne is going to be transformed," said Chris Marks, of property consultant Jones Lang Wootton. "I don't think the locals have come to grips with it. Melbourne will become a waterfront city."

Melbourne's population of over three million scoffs at Sydney as a beautiful but artless city, claiming their own town as a capital of tradition and grace but preferring until now to overlook its derelict wharfs and sad bayside.

The Docklands project, a 2,160-dunam downtown redevelopment, promises to make Melbourne a true waterside city.

The Docklands Authority, set up by the Victoria state government to oversee the 12-year

project, this month unveiled a short-list of proposals, including a 560-meter tower, film studio, hotels, marina, art gallery and ice-hockey arena.

Up to 5,000 apartments are also planned, with up to half the entire site zoned residential. A hub for information technology firms and education campuses is also proposed.

Work began this month on the first stage of the project, a \$435 million, 52,000-seat football stadium being built as a home for Australian Rules and as a venue for other big sporting contests and mass concerts.

"It's a fantastic showcase for the Docklands," authority chief executive John Tabart said of the football stadium. "The great thing about it is it will show off the Docklands to every visitor to the stadium."

The stadium is due to open in 2000, in time to stage some Olympic soccer matches, and is being built by a consortium backed by German builder Bilfinger + Berger AG and media groups Seven Network Ltd. and News Corp.

The developers for the rest of the Docklands will be chosen over the next six months.

The most controversial short-listed proposal is the 113-story skyscraper dreamed up by local builder Bruno Zevi.

It would overshadow Kuala Lumpur's Petronas Towers, now the tallest at 450 meters and a 460-meter skyscraper under construction in Shanghai.

Grollo is, to say the least, effusive about the project.

"What we propose is not just a tall building," he said. "It is an extraordinary and uplifting obelisk-like sculptural form which will have the timelessness and beauty of mankind's great constructions, like pyramids or the Greek temples."

Many Melbourne locals are not so sure.

"It probably doesn't quite fit with the image and the strategy that was first put in place for the Docklands: the intention was that it would be more a low-rise, urban type of environment," Jones Lang Wootton's Marks said.

The vision for Melbourne's waterfront differs from Sydney's Darling Harbor redevelopment, which turned that city's derelict dockland into a tourist playground, and borrows from waterfront projects elsewhere, including Cape Town, Baltimore and London.

Melbourne's project is rare in that not one taxpayer dollar is being counted on, the authority's Tabart said.

Consortia lining up to develop the site include well-known local developers Hudson

Conway Ltd. and Mirvac Ltd., New Zealand investor Brerley Investments Ltd. and Australian merchant bank Macquarie Bank.

One consortium, Entertainment City 2000, wants to build an adventure theme park, working film studio and 20-screen cinema "megaplex" on the site. It is backed by US entertainment giant Viacom Inc., owner of Paramount Studios.

Another consortium is backed by Malaysian group IJM Corp. Bhd. Austral Amalgamated Bhd and Land and General Bhd.

The entire site is to be developed in stages and is split into five precincts. Two consortia have been short-listed for each precinct.

The lack of government backing leaves the developers with all the risk that their developments may flop, and the authority has insisted proposals are strongly backed with equity.

"We look at the demand projected by the developers that win, but at the end of the day if someone makes a mistake, that's inevitable over the life of a project this size," Tabart said.

"We may well see a lot of successes and we may well see a failure, but that's life. Overall the development is sound." (Reuters)

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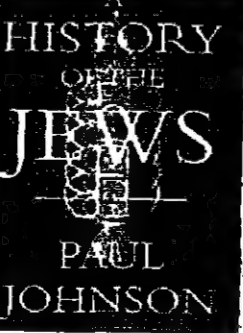
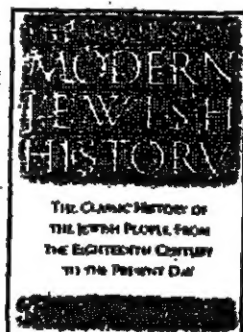
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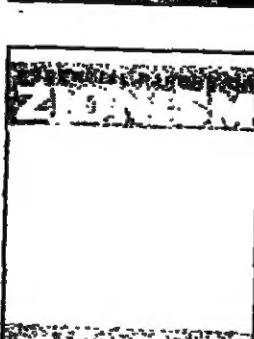
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## Will America's bison survive the winter?

By JUDITH CROSSON

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK — Autumn has just begun, but at Yellowstone National Park they are already beginning to worry about the coming winter and prospects for death.

As the world's first national park celebrates its 125th anniversary, and tourists return home with memories of seeing Old Faithful and catching a glimpse of the wildlife, officials fear a repeat of the fate that befell wild bison last winter.

The snow was so heavy then that the animals known as American buffalo fled the safety of the park in search of food, roaming onto private lands in Montana where they were slaughtered.

Ranchers, who were terrified the bison would infect their cattle with a deadly disease, insisted that they be shot as they migrated from the park, angering wildlife lovers. The buffalo population dropped from 3,500 in 1996 to 2,169 at the most recent counting, park spokeswoman Cheryl Matthews said.

The state of Montana was severely criticized for insisting on the killing, as it was entitled to do under a wildlife management plan even though the bison are a treasured symbol of the Old West that once were almost extinct.

Environmentalists expressed shock that the toll — the most killed in the park in nearly 10 years — was so high. Snowpack was 200 percent above normal last winter and ice developed when freezing temperatures followed January rains.

Bison can use their big heads to sweep the snow away to find food but cannot cut through the ice, Matthews said.

When food disappears, the bison move from the high plateau of the 2.2 million acre park north to lower elevations. But that route takes them out of the park and onto private lands, park wildlife biologist John Mack explained.

That is when the trouble began. Montana ranchers, fearing that the wild bison could carry brucellosis and infect their cattle, insisted the state take action. Brucellosis is a dreaded disease that causes spontaneous abortions in cattle.

Montana has worked hard to achieve brucellosis-free status and was not about to see it disappear. While environmentalists argue that there is little chance the bison

could pass the disease on to cattle, state officials were skittish and the shooting began.

Now officials from five state and federal agencies have been working on a permanent bison wildlife management plan and have agreed on certain principles. The draft environmental impact statement, which will deal with managing the brucellosis threat, is scheduled to be released on October 24.

A period of public debate will follow, meaning the plan will not go into effect for several months after that, well into the winter season. Until the plan is adopted, the interim plan remains in place, Matthews said.

While details are not available, officials from Montana, the National Park Service, the US Forest Service and the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service have agreed on several options.

Bison that leave the park but test negative for the disease would be captured and quarantined before being resettled.

Buffalo hunting would be allowed in certain situations and the animals would be vaccinated when a vaccine is developed.

Park rangers can also try to herd the bison back into the park, but pushing around an ornery (900 kg) animal is no easy task.

As officials try to figure out what to do if the coming winter is as severe as the 1996-97 season, the National Parks and Conservation Association is trying to calm the waters. It is promoting a "Bison Belong" campaign aimed at winning support from merchants near the park who support the animal.

"There's a great interest in the bison as a symbol of the American West. People relate to this animal," said Mark Peterson, who heads up the group's Rocky Mountain region.

Don Kast, who owns the Willow Creek Gallery in Willow Creek, Montana, said clients ask about the "Bison Belong" deal in his window and about how they can support the group.

Kast runs the fly fishing supply and art gallery with his wife, Maren. They are painters who also represent other artists in southwestern Montana. "I get to fish all day and paint all night," he said, "and I believe the buffalo belong." (Reuters)

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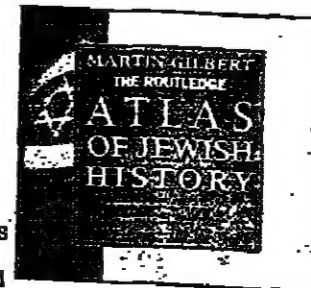
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# Unionists, Sinn Fein meet for the first time since 1921

BELFAST - Two of Northern Ireland's most implacable opponents faced each other over a negotiating table for the first time yesterday in a meeting Britain hopes will prepare the way for all-party talks.

The only business on the day's agenda, however, was the Ulster Unionist Party's demand that the Sinn Fein Party be thrown out of the talks, because of its links to the Irish Republican Army.

"The men of violence have no place at the table of democracy," Ulster Unionist lawmaker Ken Maginnis told reporters after the session.

Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam, the senior British official in the province, will have to decide whether to accept or reject the unionist challenge to Sinn Fein's participation in the talks. The government, however, has gone to great lengths to draw Sinn Fein into the process and to keep the Ulster Unionists involved as well.

David Trimble, leader of Ulster Unionists, cited the Irish Republican Army's publicly expressed "problems" with the basic tenets of the talks - the Mitchell Principles of non-violence.

He stressed that his party "was not in direct contact with Sinn Fein" at the meeting. But the Ulster Unionists also said they would remain in the multi-party talks even if they failed to get Sinn Fein ejected.

"We will be there again and again and again - until they are sick of the sight of us - to confront the evil of the IRA," Maginnis said before the meeting.

Mowlam said she was hoping for progress.

"This afternoon we will have round the table loyalists, republicans, nationalists and unionists," she said.

"We aim to move forward towards substantive negotiations as soon as possible, and today's another step in that direction," John



Ulster Unionist David Trimble (left) leaves the Stormont peace talks yesterday with fellow unionist member Ken Maginnis (center), after meeting with Sinn Fein. (AP)

Hume, leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party, Sinn Fein's moderate rival for Catholic votes, said he believes Sinn Fein is genuinely committed to the peace process.

"We have got to the stage now where all the major parties are here. No one could have forecast that a few years ago," he said. "Now let's get down to sorting out our differences." Arriving with Adams for the talks, Sinn Fein negotiator Lucila Bhreatnach said the Ulster Unionist attack was a "distraction," but she

welcomed Trimble's presence in the negotiating room.

"The real interest is whether David Trimble is prepared to move into real peace talks," she said.

Although Adams and Trimble have never exchanged a word, Ulster Unionist Party colleagues have sat down with Adams and other Sinn Fein leaders.

Ken Maginnis has taken part in an American TV debate with Adams, and a few weeks ago he debated with Sinn Fein chief negotiator Martin McGuinness in Belfast.

Despite his efforts to get Sinn Fein ejected, Trimble has called on Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists and United Kingdom Unionist Robert McCartney - who are boycotting the talks because of Sinn Fein's presence - to rejoin the talks to maintain a strong Protestant presence.

Sinn Fein had been barred from the talks, which started in June 1996, because of continuing IRA violence. An earlier IRA cease-fire ended in February 1996 with a bomb blast in east London.

So far, Protestant paramilitaries

have been officially abiding by their own cease-fire.

The Ulster Unionists have blamed the IRA for the bombing of a police station in the town of Markethill, 55 kms southwest of Belfast a week ago. An anonymous caller claiming to speak for the little-known splinter group Continuity Army Council claimed responsibility for the blast, in which no one was injured.

Paisley said yesterday the Ulster Unionists were endangering Northern Ireland's place within the union by talking to Sinn Fein. (AP)

## The philosopher king returns to Israel

"Hope is definitely not the same as optimism. It is not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out."

Vaclav Havel may be one of the most quoted presidents on earth. He certainly is one of the few worth listening to. In the world of the mighty sound bite - with all the intellectual satisfaction of its close relative the burger bite - Havel is one of the world's few leaders whose speeches remain an event that command rapt attention.

It is not just the drawing power of an excellent writer turned politician. It is the drawing power of a man who has had to live the words he has written, and whose words have changed the history of his nation.

Vaclav Havel sitting over a beer outside the Cafe Atara on Ben Yehuda Street yesterday was not just another visiting politician making a gesture on camera with minimum risk. Havel has that solid authority about him that makes people believe he would not be moved if a terrorist walked right up to him.

"If you want to have peace, you have to have courage," said Havel. It means something - coming from a man who sat in jail for principles, whose personality inspired a nation to velvet revolution for freedom, and who presided over the sad but peaceful division of his country into two states.

### Haunted

A country sometimes does raise a person seemingly predestined to lead his people through fateful moments. As the British found Winston Churchill, so Czechoslovakia found Vaclav Havel and raised him from a prison cell to Hradcany Castle presidential suite almost overnight.

But there was a moment in July 1992, when the victory of the party over the ideal seemed to step out of one of Havel's own plays. Havel the velvet revolutionary was pettily rejected for re-election to the presidency by his own parliament - the Slovak deputies still there voted against him.

It was an ironic return of "long-forgotten history coming back to haunt us," that he himself had written about. It was a reminder of the prophet rejected by his own - there would have been no free democratic Czechoslovakia to be split freely and democratically into Slovakia and the Czech Republic without Havel's guiding light.

### Costly bouquet

Havel had been hailed in the West as a true philosopher-king straight out of Plato, a leader of whom not only his country but the free world should be proud. Possessed of a self-mocking humor, he is the modest, easy-going type

people find it impossible to dislike. So it was with some sad disbelief that he said of a visit to the Slovak capital, Bratislava at that time: "A lady gave me a bouquet of flowers and she was beaten in the street for doing so."

It was long ago observed that Havel's plays are steeped in the absurd because, so often in his life, he has found himself living it. A clue to his fierce adherence to dissent for 22 years can be found in his writing about Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

"Why was Solzhenitsyn driven out of his country?" Havel asked in *The Power of the Powerless*. "Certainly not because he represented a unit of

real power. His expulsion was something else: a desperate attempt to plug up the dreadful wellspring of truth."

Havel speaks a language we no longer hear from national leaders - thoughtful, visionary, perceptive. Hardly surprising from one whose early volume of satirical verses, *Anecdotes*, mocked accepted political language. "There is no doubt that distrust of words is less harmful than unwarranted trust in them," he warned after becoming an elected politician. Havel must have been the one least surprised to fall victim to eastern Europe's new nationalist absurdities. At least it wasn't a vile Bosnian absurdity.

### Kibbutz Masaryk

Havel came first to Israel in 1990, as the European Communism collapsed, "to correct an historic wrong." Part of the attraction Israel had for Havel was his mission to wipe out the Stalinist view of history. He spoke of the 1,000-year history of the Jewish community in Czechoslovakia. He did not shy away from the role of anti-semitism in that past, yet he also recalled that his country was one of the few that stood by the infant State of Israel in 1948.

The most moving moment occurred at the end of his visit to Kibbutz Masaryk, named after the first Czechoslovak president who came to Israel in 1927. As the Modus Brass Quintet played the Czechoslovak national anthem, the audience softly began singing the words.

It was an emotive echo of the Velvet Revolution, of the romantic scenes of joyous flag-wavers in Wenceslas Square, weeping and singing at the birth of freedom while a chanted idea fixe was tossed from group to group: "Havel to the Castle. Havel to the Castle."

The deputy director-general of the foreign ministry at the time, Yosef Govrin, deftly caught the spirit of Havel's visit.

"This is not a visit for signing agreements," he said. "Its importance is that such a man is here."

It still is so.

### Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

## New Russia-NATO forum to meet this week in NY

By TIMOTHY HERATAGE

MOSCOW - Russia, still wary of NATO despite a new security agreement, is looking to the defense alliance to prove its commitment to their new partnership at talks scheduled to begin in New York this week.

The first full meeting on Friday of the Joint Permanent Council, created under the agreement signed by NATO and Russia last May in Paris, is seen in Moscow as a test of how far NATO is ready to go to create a genuine partnership.

"This meeting will set the pattern for all the following meetings," said Andrei Piontkovsky, head of Moscow's Centre for Strategic Studies.

"Whether the Paris agreement is followed by anything serious or not depends very much on the policies shown at the Joint Permanent Council." The Founding Act signed in Paris was hailed as the start of a new era in relations between the former Cold War enemies.

It was intended partly to ease

Moscow's fears over the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's eastward expansion, a process which began when NATO offered membership to Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary at a summit of the alliance in Madrid in July.

Under the Founding Act, Russia was offered a say but not a veto in some NATO affairs through the creation of the Joint Permanent Council, presided over by three officials, two of whom represent NATO and one Russia.

Friday's meeting, the council's first full talks at the level of foreign ministers, will focus on issues such as the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and peace-keeping operations.

Russia will be represented by Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

Just as important for Russia will be the agenda agreed for future meetings and how much NATO is ready to take into consideration Moscow's views.

"There is a feeling in Moscow that NATO may try to limit coop-

eration to certain areas and not to let Russia influence decisions too much," said Alexei Pushkov, a foreign affairs commentator for the weekly *Moscow News* newspaper.

"The fulfillment of the Paris agreement depends much more on NATO than Russia. If Russia gets no significant influence in the work NATO does, if it gets little out of the Paris agreement, NATO expansion could become a burning issue here again." Anti-NATO rhetoric has eased in Moscow, but not died.

The opposition communists and nationalists have not been fully reconciled to cooperation with NATO and mistrust remains.

Some nationalists have been regularly demonstrating outside the embassies of NATO member states in Moscow.

Military exercises involving NATO and non-member Ukraine in the Black Sea this summer did nothing to improve the atmosphere and highlighted Russia's sensitivity to the alliance's overtures to former Soviet republics. (Reuters)

## US, Russia okay plutonium ban

MOSCOW - The United States and Russia signed an agreement yesterday aimed at halting the production of weapons-grade plutonium. US Vice President Al Gore said.

"After much hard work we took an important, perhaps even historic step this week when we reached an agreement to halt the production of weapons-grade plutonium in both the United States and Russia," Gore told reporters after meeting Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Under the deal Russia undertook to convert with US assistance its three plutonium production reactors to civilian use by the year 2000 and promised not to restart another 10 such reactors already shut.

Washington promised not to restart its 14 plutonium production reactors shut down by 1989. The sides agreed on a monitoring regime to ensure that the agreement is not violated.

"By ending the production of plutonium at these sites the agreement makes a major contribution to the advancement of our non-proliferation interests," Gore said.

Halting the production of such

material is seen as the next priority in the nuclear field now that Russia and the US are edging towards cuts in strategic arsenals. In July Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered the creation of a working group to report on what to do with weapons-grade plutonium by October 15.

Western governments have been concerned since the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 that nuclear materials could be stolen in the former East bloc, putting atomic bombs within reach of non-nuclear states.

The world's main disarmament forum, the United Nations-sponsored Conference on Disarmament, ended its 1997 session earlier this month with little progress, including on the production of weapons-grade fissile material like plutonium and highly-enriched uranium.

The two countries did not agree, however, on Russia's commitments to Iran to build a nuclear power plant, which has alarmed the US.

"It is obvious that there is a vigorous effort by Iran to obtain the technologies it needs to build a ballistic missile and to build nuclear weapons," Gore said. (Reuters)

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## Beyond Islamic violence

There can be little doubt that we are now in the midst of a period of Arab and Islamic agitation against Israel. Israel's image among the masses in the Arab world is at a new nadir, with many applauding attacks against Israel ranging from Hizbullah fighters striking IDF targets, to Hamas extremists blowing themselves up in the streets of Jerusalem, to Jordanian gunmen opening fire at Israeli across the river. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has refused to pardon Israeli Druse businessman Azzam Azzam, who was sentenced by an Egyptian court to 15 years in prison on a charge of spying for Israel, because Mubarak felt slighted by what he termed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's "insult" to the Egyptian judicial system. Actions which have no direct bearing on Israel are being blamed on the state of Arab-Israeli relations, such as the shooting of German tourists in Cairo last week, which was committed by Islamic extremists as supposed revenge against Israel.

The events in Jordan and Egypt are the most immediately disturbing, because these are the two Arab states with which Israel has signed peace agreements intended to bring about normal relations. Responsibility for the shooting on Monday of two Israeli Embassy security guards in Amman was claimed by an unknown Islamic group, which warned of more attacks to come. Although Jordanian Interior Minister Nazir Rasheed dismissed the claim, the possibility that there is an emerging Islamic group in Jordan dedicated to attacking Israeli targets should not be discounted.

The peace agreement between Jordan and Israel has not been tremendously popular in Jordan, where there has always been a palpable sense on the street that it was an arrangement "imposed from above." More than anything else, this actually reflects internal Jordanian tensions between Palestinians in Jordan and the "original Jordanians," who have their roots on the east bank of the Jordan River. The Palestinians there, who are closely attuned to what is happening to their brethren in the West Bank, are in many senses second-tier citizens, with most of the top official, bureaucratic, and royal court positions reserved for East Bankers.

The East Bankers, in turn, fear that either the peace process will eventually lead to some form of union between the East and West Banks, giving Palestinians a huge majority in Jordan that would be translated into political power, or alternatively that the collapse of the peace process will lead to Palestinian tensions that will cross the river. Add to this the fact that Jordanian opinion has traditionally been known to bend with the winds of Arab world opinion, it is clear why many Jordanians at best hold cautious attitudes about relations with Israel.

The Islamic element in Jordan is even more

complicated. For many decades, Islamic extremists in Jordan have been kept in check by a two-pronged policy carried out by the royal court: on the one hand, the Moslem Brotherhood was granted relatively broad political leeway to spread its message and conduct political activities, while on the other hand any tendencies towards violence were efficiently nipped in the bud by the Jordanian security services.

This had the effect of making the Islamic groups in Jordan among the mildest in the Middle East. The tensions in the Israel-Palestinian Authority-Hamas relationship, however, have spilled over to Islamic groups in Amman, which have been showing disturbing signs of tending towards more violent activities. It remains to be seen whether the shooting of the Israeli Embassy guards is a sign of a new period of Islamic activism in Jordan, but King Hussein is certainly facing a growing challenge to which he must respond.

The peace agreement with Egypt has always been a cold one, reflecting Egyptian wariness that Israel could threaten the preeminent regional position Egypt wants reserved for itself. For example, during a recent visit of Turkish government officials to Egypt, the Egyptian hosts were most concerned about Israeli-Turkish military exercises. The fear that Israel intends on obtaining a hegemonic position in the region by way of economic domination is never far from the surface in Egypt, and it is possible that the sentencing of Azzam, along with recent lesser harassment of other Israeli businesspeople, is meant as a warning to Israeli business interests to keep away from Egypt.

It should not be concluded from all this that Israel's position is a retreat to the situation of 20 years ago. On the contrary, Israel is now inextricably intertwined in Middle East politics in a way that was unimaginable in the past, as evidenced in the fact that King Hussein felt obliged to personally express his regrets to Netanyahu for the attack on the embassy guards and agreed to an IDF role in seeking the perpetrators.

The more moderate interests in countries such as Jordan and Egypt recognize that fighting extremism and expanding economically will involve cooperation with Israel. The most significant aspect of this week's Arab League conference was the suppression of a motion to boycott an upcoming economic summit meeting in Qatar to be attended by Israel.

Israel's leadership should never allow Islamic violence to push it to make concessions on vital interests. Instead, the correct response should be to reach out to those in the Arab world who have an interest in cooperating to fight terrorism and to build a better economic future in the Middle East.

## Diagnostics



## A simple proposal

YORAM SADEH

A simple solution to a non-simple question. Since our statesmen cannot be expected to tax their brains on matters of little consequence until the next elections, it falls on the rank-and-file citizens to volunteer to deal with secondary issues such as a final settlement with our neighbors.

As far as I know, the formula for a final settlement presented here has not yet been put forward. The innovation is not in any of the components, but in the conception that the final settlement must apply not only to relations between the State of Israel and the Palestinian "entity," but also to the overall structure of relations between Jews and Arabs in the Land of Israel.

The solution presented here attempts to be simple and symmetrical. It is simple, because only a simple solution can have stability, as required by the notion of a final settlement. A solution based on medusa-shaped maps, enclaves, fences and bypass roads is a sure prescription for friction.

The solution is symmetrical because the more symmetrical it is, the more just it is. This symmetry must apply, first of all, to the main point: It is inconceivable that the Jews should have a state here, and Arabs have only an "entity" or "autonomy." According to this principle, the point of departure is to divide the country into two sovereign states.

When there are two states here, one will be able to divide the population into four main groups: Jews living in Israel; Arabs living in the Palestinian state; Jews living in the Palestinian state; and Arabs living in Israel.

Let us begin with the Jews living in the Palestinian state. Our position on the final settlement must be unequivocal: no settlement shall be dismantled. It does not stand to reason that Arabs could live in Galilee and Jews not be allowed to live in the West Bank. But one must remember

**Only a simple solution can have stability, as required by the notion of a final settlement**

that the Arabs in Galilee recognize the sovereignty of the State of Israel. Therefore, Jews who wish to remain in the West Bank will have to recognize Palestinian sovereignty. We can demand that the Palestinians come to terms with the presence of Jewish residents on their territory, but not with the presence of residents who view themselves as the master.

Have no fear. We are not abandoning the settlers to the foe. They may be subjects of a Palestinian state, but they will remain citizens of the State of Israel. What will it hurt them to paste stamps with a picture of Arafat's face on their letters? They will be able to work in Israel, to watch Israeli TV in the evening, and of course to elect our mediocre leaders to the Knesset.

Nor are we abandoning them in terms of security. We can demand that the responsibility for the security of the settlements and the roads leading to them remain in the hands of the Israeli army as long as that is necessary.

But let us not forget that the security situation is closely related to the political situation. If only those Jews who recognize the Palestinian state were to remain in the West Bank, then we would soon see that Jews and Arabs can live together here. The Palestinians do not hate every settler for being a Jew. They simply do not want to have neighbors who seek to rule them.

This principle must apply symmetrically to the Arabs of Israel. The Arabs of Israel who choose to be Palestinian citizens will have a parallel status to that of Jewish settlers. They will be residents enjoying equal rights in all respects save one — their vote will be cast into the Palestinian ballot box.

On the other hand, any Arab in Israel who chooses Israeli citizenship shall be an Israeli citizen in the full sense of the word. He or she shall be able to vote and be elected to the Knesset, but will also have to enlist for national service or serve in the IDF. A strange idea? Not necessarily. For we are speaking of true peace, of a historic reconciliation. Whoever does not believe in an end to the Jewish-Arab conflict had better not propose plans for a final settlement.

The writer is a freelance writer and translator and the son of Yitzhak Sadah, the founder and first commander of the Palmach.

## Test of leadership

DAVID KIMCHE

ing to Israel demanding concomitant reciprocation.

THIS scenario, more than any other, should make it plain to Arafat how much he stands to gain — or lose — by his actions on security and terrorism. Similarly, however, our government must also consider the consequences of lack of suitable reciprocation on its part if Arafat does, indeed satisfy

**In a situation of total despair the Palestinians would be ready to sacrifice thousands of lives for the sake of reactivating the peace process**

American demands.

Not only will such a situation create a deep and damaging crisis of confidence between the United States and Israel, with all that such a crisis could mean for Israel, but it would also cause an even greater rift between the government and the people of Israel. For the polls show, time and again, that the majority in Israel continue to favor the Oslo Accords and the peace process, and whereas at present there exists in the minds of the people a certain legitimization for the refusal of the government to continue the peace process as long as the Palestinian Authority does not combat the terrorist threat sufficiently, this understanding of the government's stand would disappear immediately if Arafat would be given a clean bill of health by the Americans.

## A twofold tragedy

ISI LEIBLER

ated a dangerous brew of religion and politics which has led to fanaticism and extremism.

FOR their part, secular Israelis have moved even further away from traditional Jewish core values. The ethnic elements that kept alive Jewish identity in the past have become diluted as memories of the Holocaust and the struggle for building a Zionist state fade.

To add to all this, Israel has surrendered to the hedonism of

**We are left with mistrust, suspicion, and widespread contempt on both sides of the religious-secular divide.**

the consumer society. In the century year of Zionism, Macworld — Big Macs and Apple Macs — is winning out over Herzliya. In Israel's current educational system there is only a very limited scope for transmitting the traditional values of Jewish civilization to the non-observant, or partially observant.

This polarized system in which the haredi-yeshiva and national religious streams are totally cut off from the majority of Israeli Jews, utterly fails to promote respect and tolerance, exacerbating the country's divisiveness.

Instead, we are left with mistrust, suspicion, and widespread contempt on both sides of the religious-secular divide.

Into this atmosphere comes the recent upheaval in Diaspora-Israel

relations as a result of the anger of Reform and Conservative Jews over the conversion issue. Their protests, and attempts at intervention into Israeli life, are a reflection of Diaspora Jewry's own anxiety regarding the spiraling assimilation in the Diaspora.

Paradoxically, perhaps, most secular Israelis are indifferent to the rights of Reform and Conservative Jews, viewing the movements as Diaspora creations. "Let Reform and Conservative Jews immigrate to Israel," say many secular Israelis, "and then they can make demands."

In the meantime, as the cliché goes, the secular Israeli wants the synagogue he doesn't attend to be Orthodox.

Are there any solutions to this awful impasse? Frankly, I see no immediate answers. But clearly, what is desperately needed, is a breathing space, a circuit-breaker. Today there is a crying need for all parties to just pause and declare a truce, to lower the temperature, the voices and the rhetoric.

One admittedly idealistic suggestion: next year, to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Israel, which for religious Zionists represents *atchalta d'geulah*, the beginning of our redemption, let us appeal to all Jews to declare a true Yovel, a jubilee year which will be a sabbatical of silence.

Let it be a year when Jews will be at peace among themselves in the Land of Israel: when nobody will say or do anything to change the status quo on "Who is a Jew" or "Who is a Rabbi" — except to agree that at the end of that year we will try to sit down in the spirit of brotherhood and begin talking *l'shem shanuyim*, for the sake of God.

The writer is the chairman of the governing board of the World Jewish Congress.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### JEWISH WASPS

Sir — Professor David Newman's dinner table discussion and reasoning and conclusions on how to deal with the kidnappers of the Yeminite (and apparently other Sephardi) children appears dull, sloppy and misses the point.

The comparison with the criminals of the Holocaust is misleading and is a neat trick to change the focus of the discussion. Not only Jews and Israelis but many decent people the world over would reel at the comparison of these kidnappers with the Nazi criminals who participated in the Holocaust.

Moreover, in Nazi Germany there was certainly a mob psychology for or against the Fatherland. As the war proceeded in many particular situations there must have been pressure on

individuals to kill or be killed.

This was not the case for those who kidnapped Yeminite children. They, the Jewish WASPS — White Ashkenazi Socialists with Protektia acted on their own initiative. They decided they knew better than the mothers and fathers of these children entrusted to their care as to how these children should be raised and made racist decisions against the human interests (rights) of these families.

They acted of their own free will and possibly profited from their activities. Their deeds were immoral, criminal, and transgressed basic democratic norms and violated the Jewish concern for fellow Jews which we can ill afford. In no way can our concern for our fellow man be twisted to

allow the transgressor not to be held accountable for his acts.

While Uzi Meshulam may be a troubled, abnormal, fanatical person, he is also a product of these kidnappings. They gave him a banner to enlist people to battle under his demagogical leadership. I do not see why the present government cannot bring these criminals to justice, neither they nor their political predecessors were in power at the time.

Why should people involve these criminal acts be allowed to live the final years of their lives as honorable members of our society when they are not?

YEHUDA S. RABINOWITZ, MD.

Netanya

### MOSKOWITZ IS NOT ALONE

slamming those non-citizens and non-army-servers who govern the fate of universities and hospitals: the ones who have assisted the Hebrew University to dominate East Jerusalem and those who developed and reside in King David's Village, which has also stinked up a strategic bit of the city for all time. Don't they "dabble in our politics" as much as Mr. Asa-El? Too bad.

I invite Mr. Asa-El to join us in

is legal and let unelected opinion-makers take note of what the State Department said on September 17: "Remember, this is about property rights, people purchasing property and then trying to build on that property, dealing with local governments, dealing with national governments. It's really an Israeli internal matter."

HARVEY A. CHESTERMAN  
Jerusalem.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

60 years ago: On September 24, 1937, *The Palestine Post* reported that the League of Nations Sixth (Political) Committee and the League's Assembly concluded their debate of the Palestine problem.

25 years ago: On September

24, 1972, *The Jerusalem Post* reported that the US and Israel had agreed that the first priority in the Middle East must be combating Arab terrorism, but that options for negotiations must also be kept open.

Haifa Port striking dockers

went back to work, but the port was hit by a customs men's warning strike. International shipping conferences were worried by a complete paralysis of Haifa Port and the container-handling strike at Ashdod Port.

Alexander Zvielli



## ALEPH TO TAV



'Something' and 'nothing' — where fantasy and reality combine.

## Adults can learn from children

By RUTH BLUM

**SHUM DAVAR** ("Nothing at All") by Mirik Suir. Illustrated by Elyor Suir. Hakibbutz Hameuhad Publishing House, Ltd. 1997. NIS 35.90. Pages not numbered. Target age: 3-5.

Mother of nine and special education teacher Mirik Suir is not merely aware of the blurring of fantasy and reality in children's minds. This prolific children's author skillfully pays tribute to this quality.

*Shum Davar* is the story of a child who finds "something" on his way home. As he continues he meets up with a frog, then with a mouse, then with a fly, a snake, a lion, and finally with a man. The boy offers each a peek into his cupped hands, asking if they know what he's caught.

Each animal gives a different answer. The frog says it's a "Kwa Kwa" (Hebrew onomatopoeia for a frog noise); the mouse thinks it's a "tzeetz, tzeetz"; the fly calls it a

serve to soothe young children combine to make this book a potential hit. The illustrations, painted by the author's 22-year-old daughter, are enchanting. Like the text, the pictures combine abstract and concrete in a subtle yet powerful way. The colors are a combination of pastels and deep, rich hues.

The rhyme scheme is simple, easy for children to repeat and learn by heart. The bold letters are helpful for the learning-how-to-read stage.

**TUTI KELEV PIRISOMOT** ("Advertisement Dog"), by Roni Gancor. Illustrated by Noam Nadav. Hakibbutz Hameuhad Publishing House, Ltd. 1997. 60 pages. Price: NIS 35.90. Target age: 7-10.

Ro'i is an only child. His father spends much of the year researching whales at the North Pole. His mother, a computer-programmer, requires silence in the house at all times due to her heavy workload.

Ro'i is disappointed in his summer vacation. He'd had high expectations of something exciting happening.



A different kind of shaggy dog story.

"zoom zoom," and so on. His last encounter is with a man, who calls out to the boy: "Hey, there's nothing at all in your hands." The boy reaches home cradling his "nothing."

The young reader — or listener — accompanies the hero on his quest for different answers from different perspectives.

The fact that it is a human adult who declares that the boy is holding "nothing" in his hands is telling, as is the boy's response. While many adults tend to dismiss children's imagination, children do have their own perception of reality. The little boy may have been told by the adult that he's holding "nothing," but he is no less determined to take "it" home than he was when told it was a "zoom zoom" or a "kwa kwa."

Not only is the child not flustered by the adult's unimaginative statement, he makes the adult appear to be the one who has missed the point. And, of course, we adults all too often do miss the point where children are concerned.

Several elements which usually

for short. What most impresses Ro'i and his mother about the new addition to the household is the dog's good nature. Unlike Ro'i, Tuti is delighted by the small things in life. Unlike Ro'i, Tuti is never bored. When he sees an ad in the paper for a dog to appear in a TV commercial, Ro'i decides to try his luck. Tuti ends up being chosen to advertise cat food, and Ro'i and his dog become famous overnight. They even get invited to appear on a TV talk show.

Ro'i's mother is happy her son has found something to do with himself. Ro'i's father returns from the North Pole and considers taking up researching shaggy dogs instead of whales — a relief to his wife, who resents his long absences.

Most children will be able to identify with the book's description of boredom, as well as the feeling of playing second fiddle to parents' careers and marital difficulties. As in *Shum Davar*, here too one gets the feeling that adults have something to learn from children.

## Prince or commoner — everybody feels the pain of losing their mom

A loss without resolution, a grief without end. Sandy Banks writes about a US center that encourages children to share the sting of bereavement



Primal bond: A place in our psyches 'where mother represents comfort and security, no matter our age.'

She was beautiful and charming; a single mother devoted to her children; a society doyenne who worked tirelessly for charitable causes. On vacation with her boyfriend, she was killed in a car accident, a drunk driver at the wheel.

But her name was not Diana, and her death provoked no media storm, spawned no international outpouring of grief.

Terry Leavey Lemons wasn't a princess, just a 40-year-old Los Angeles mother of five, whose children have missed her every day in the 18 years since she died.

"It was the first thing we thought about when we heard about Diana," says Karen Lemons, who is 27 now, but was nine years old when her mother was killed.

"My brothers and sister, we all said, 'Remember when Mom died?' ... And all we could talk about was those kids and what they must be feeling. Poor Harry and William."

It is mostly over now, the grand spectacle of mourning that followed the death of Princess Diana. The world has committed her memory to history and her legacy of charitable good deeds.

But her sons have been left a legacy of another sort — an equal-opportunity legacy, as it were: one shared by millions of children around the world.

They may be solitary princes, William and Harry, but they are hardly alone as motherless kids. More than 125,000 children and adolescents are left motherless in the US each year, through homicides and suicides, illnesses and accidents.

In my small circle of friends, three families I know lost mothers this summer, leaving three sets of children whose lives have been permanently altered in ways both mundane and profound.

We don't really know, for all that's been written and said, what kind of mother Diana was, what memories her boys will carry of her as they move through adolescence and beyond.

And it doesn't matter much in considering her death. What they've lost is bigger than the reality of the mummy they mourn. It's a loss without resolution, a grief without end. You don't get over losing a mother.

"It's like the idea of existing without a God," wrote a woman whose mother had died years before, in a letter to Hope Edelman, author of a book tracing the legacy of mother loss.

"You're on your own." Twice a month, Karen Lemons drives 150 kilometers from her California home to Los Angeles to talk with kids about death. She's one of the volunteers at Our House, a

four-year-old bereavement center that sponsors grief groups for children who've lost parents or siblings, and grown-ups whose spouses or children have died. The center exists mostly on grants and

donations, but it has no shortage of clients. Lemons leads "The Littles" — children from five to seven — once a week. Around the corner are older kids and teenagers, and in the office "living room" are the young

widows and widowers. The kids talk, draw pictures, play music — whatever helps them share the sting of being singled out by fate. Some sit quietly night after night; others lash out in anger and pain.

It helps, Lemons knows, to be with other children who do not pity or shrink from you, as if parental death is contagious. "I wish William and Harry could have this," she says. "I wish I could have had this." Her father — who like Prince Charles was divorced from his children's mother when she died — did all he could, she says.

He moved back home and took charge of his brood. He found a place where they could get therapy and kept their mother's memory alive.

But still, she says, recovery is a long, tough road. "People think you get over your grief, but you don't," she says. "Not when it's your mom... No one can replace her. And it leaves you in shock and pain that can last your entire life."

It is a primal bond, the mother-child connection; so profound that "we equate its severing with a child's emotional death," writes Edelman in her book *Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss*. There's a place in our psyches "where mother represents comfort and security, no matter our age." Even children taken away from their mothers because of abuse call out for them when they are sick or hurt or scared, she writes.

But I know all this. Because I remember when I realized the magnitude of the loss I faced, as I prepared for my own mother to die.

I was 19, home from college to tend her. She was bedridden from cancer, terminally ill. I was making her tea. I spilled the hot water on my hand, called out for "Mommy" and ran into her room.

I climbed up onto her bed, crying from the pain, and held my hand out for her to see. She wrapped her arms around me and took my hand between hers. She leaned forward and blew on it, like she did when I was little, after she'd put burn medicine on my childhood wounds.

Then she kissed it, and kissed my cheek, and murmured to me to stop crying, that it would be all right.

And at that moment the pain was eclipsed by the realization that this was the last time I would sit on my mother's lap. That for the rest of my life, there would be no one to kiss the hurt away, no one with the power to stop the pain of a second-degree burn by blowing on it.

(Los Angeles Times)

## PARENTING

## The good potential in bad behavior

By RUTH MASON

Children have to feel lonely, sad, disappointed, frustrated, bored and angry, in order to develop positive qualities," according to child psychologist Wendy Mogel.

"If you intervene every time your children are unhappy and try to micro-manage their feelings, you rob them of the opportunity to see that feelings come and go and that they can do something about them," explains Mogel, who runs workshops in Jewish parenting.

"Children do not develop character and a sense of morals without suffering," continues Mogel. "That's what 'Spare the rod and spoil the child' means."

Like most modern psychologists, Mogel doesn't believe parents should hit their children. She also believes that there are no bad chil-

dren. In a hand-out for participants in her parenting workshop called "Five Practices for Effective Jewish Parents," Mogel says Judaism teaches us to worship God with both our aggressive and our good impulses.

"A midrash about the creation story says that the Bible specifically includes the *yetzer hara* (aggressive or evil inclination) in 'And God saw all that He had done, and it was very good.' But why is the *yetzer hara* 'very good'?"

"The Talmud teaches that without the evil inclination, people would not build homes, get married, have children, or engage in business. Solomon said that all labor and skillful enterprise comes from men's envy of each other."

"Each child has an individual temperament and nature and a unique path to serving God. When we recognize the direction in which a child is led by his *yetzer hara*, we can creatively redefine bad behavior as misdirected good potential. Then we can help a child to *teshuvah* — not in the usual sense of 'repentance' or 'apology for wrongs' — but in the true definition of the word, 'return'."

"Say your son is uncooperative in school, talks back at home and can't sit still except in front of the television or computer screen. We can label this child 'undersocialized' or 'hyperactive,' or we can redefine his behavior. From the perspective of *teshuvah*, he is energetic and strong-willed, two potentially positive personality traits. Rather than despairing about his future, we can see him as a potential leader. To help guide him to do *teshuvah*, we'll need to change his environment somehow, with tall trees to climb and a hammer and nails. There should be

calm, predictable, immediate and logical consequences for misbehavior. He should be given real responsibility, parent-sanctioned opportunities for risk and excitement, and more time with Dad."

"Some people might call your shy daughter introverted, psychosomatic and a worrywart. We can redefine her behavior and nature as careful, sensitive, introspective and aware of detail. For her to do *teshuvah*, she needs help in turning her fretting into caring and courage. She can be given the chance to care tenderly for animals, or to express her *yetzer energy* through creative writing or art. These opportunities can turn a negative trait into a positive one."

"The Talmud teaches us that the greater the person, the greater the evil inclination. Examine yourself to see in what direction you have been turned by your own *yetzer hara*.

Then look at your child's behavior problems from the perspective of *teshuvah*. Think of any problem behavior as a seed which can grow into a strong and healthy plant, given the right soil, climate and care."

This is the third column on Jewish child-rearing wisdom by child psychologist Wendy Mogel.

## THE GOLAN

### A VERY DIFFERENT TWO DAYS

Widely recognized as perhaps Israel's most important security asset, the Golan is for the moment on the back burner. But it won't be there for long. So what better time than now to join Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club for an in-depth, English-speaking two day tour of the area. We'll visit the settlements, examine the security issues and view the terrain, the animals, the water and the beauty.

We'll visit the museum at Kibbutz Tel Katzir, Mitzpe Shalom Observation Point, Kibbutz Afik for a meeting with members, Katzirin, tastings at the Golan Wineries, observe the vultures at Gamla, Tel Rachanyia wind generators, the ancient volcano of Mount Bental, view Syrian Kuneitra, Birkat Ram, Ein Kinya, Kfar Rajar Alawim and more. A truly magnificent tour. Overnight at Kibbutz Kfar Blum, with a lecture on the Golan's wildlife.

The date: Monday-Tuesday, October 27-28.

The guide: Israel Shalem.

The price: NIS 660. Includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and back, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, entrance to all sites, half-board accommodation in a double room, dinner on the first day, breakfast and lunch-box on the second. Pick-up and drop-off along this route when possible, by prior arrangement.

Reservations and further information:

SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074.  
Tel. 02-568-6281 (9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.)  
Ask for Michal, Vered or Varda.

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### supplement

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Rush your contributions today and as the rain brings out the flowers, help us bring a smile to a child's face.

The Jerusalem Post, P.O. Box 81, Jerusalem 91000, Israel



## GARDENER'S CORNER

# Giving plants their full lease on life

By BATSHEVA MINK  
& DAVID BRAUNER

Swiss cheese plants (*Monstera deliciosa*) growing in the jungles of their native Guatemala hit heights of 40 m. or more. And in tropical Asia the rubber plant (*Ficus elastica*) will reach seven meters high.

So why do we see Swiss cheese and rubber plants drooping and struggling to stay alive in someone's living room — perhaps our own? How do plant lovers manage to kill off that beautiful houseplant they have just brought home from the nursery or florist, or received as a gift?

Commercial growers succeed in nurturing exotic botanicals simply by giving each individual plant the conditions it requires for optimum growth. If plants are grown in controlled surroundings with the light and temperature of their native habitat, the right amount of watering and fertilizer, the perfect soil and a regular spray program, they will thrive.

But once you get your lovely new specimen home, the light may not be right, or there may be a draft, or constant traffic from large and small feet may be knocking it about. Another thing plants can't abide are extreme temperature fluctuations, like in winter, when many of our homes are as hot in the evenings but cold during the working day.

Plants, particularly the more expensive types, will almost certainly succumb to over-watering and over-feeding, no matter how well intended. And, of course, forgetting to water and feed a growing plant will inevitably lead to disappointment.

Today there are at least 500 kinds of leafy and flowering

houseplants to choose from here. But they come to us in restricted containers, which is already unnatural and stunting. In fact, it's a wonder that so many adapt so well.

Plants, like people, need tender loving care, but nothing can live on love alone. Even though plants can't talk to us, it's amazing how they let us know when we're doing something wrong.

Generally, plants don't die suddenly; they fade away. They take on a sickly appearance. Look out for overall wilting, paleness and yellowing, and leaves turning tobacco-brown, possibly with holes and rotting.

Here are some tips to keep your favorite flora healthy and alive:

**Watering**  
The most common cause of houseplant death is improper watering, either flooding or parching.

Surprisingly, either mistake kills for same reason.

When a plant is overwatered, the roots begin to shrink, which is the same reaction it has to underwatering. The smaller roots can't take up the surplus moisture, so the plant dies of thirst and starvation. The symptoms for both are the same — drooping yellow foliage, particularly in the younger leaves.

If a plant has been left unwatered, you can attempt to save it by placing the pot in a bowl of tepid water — not so deep that the pot will float — for 1-2 hours. Recovery using this method is not guaranteed, especially if the plant has been chronically under-watered.

Oversaturating plant soil also drives out the air, which, like water, is absolutely necessary for healthy roots. Many people put saucers under pots, and let the pots stand in water too long, thus soak-

ing the soil and cutting off air. Plants should not be watered every day. Water only when the soil is on the dry side, but not dried out. Check the extent of dryness by poking the soil with your finger.

**Feeding**  
Overfeeding burns roots, and is literally killing with kindness. To stay on the safe side, use only half the recommended amount. Feed only actively growing plants, and give your maternal instincts a complete rest in winter. Liquid seaweed is excellent food, and may also be sprayed on the leaves.

**Light**  
Too much or too little light can be deadly. In general, filter the harsh summer sun through curtains or blinds. In winter, plants can be exposed to unfiltered light. Ask your nursery how much light is right when you buy a plant.

**Cleaning**  
Plants, as we all know, absorb life-giving light through their leaves, but a layer of dust and grime on the foliage acts like a cataract, cutting out over 50% of the light. Spray-clean or sponge-wipe the leaves regularly with clean water, especially in winter, when the light is low.

**Humidity**  
Many plants are not happy in dry air. Excessively dry conditions will cause Swiss cheese plants, for example, to lose the slits in their leaves.

The simplest way to introduce moisture into the air around the plant is to place the pot in a large dish or tray with a layer of pebbles and water underneath. The water level must not touch the bottom of the pot.

Frequent misting with fresh water is also appreciated. Use an old, well-washed window-spray bottle for perfect results.

**Pots**  
Plastic pots are light, easy to clean and, above all, hold in soil moisture longer than clay pots, an important feature in summer.

Small plants should not be planted in large pots, because the soil that is not in contact with roots becomes soured by the introduction of harmful bacteria.

Signs of pot-bound plants are slow growth, water running straight through the pot, and roots growing through the drainage holes. Repot plants in a pot only one size larger than the original.

**Gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, P.O.B. 3943, Jerusalem 91039, or David Brauner, through his e-mail: morrit@ashur.cc.hu.ac.il**

## Tip of the week

Here's how to save a sagging, waterlogged plant from dying: Remove it from the pot. Thoroughly wash off the soil from the roots and the pot, and let both dry on newspaper overnight.

Repot the plant in sterilized soil, and keep it misted with fresh water. Nourish the plant "intravenously" by spraying the leaves every 10 days with a dilute solution of half the recommended dose of liquid seaweed.

Do not fertilize the roots until the plant has fully reestablished itself.



What turns an eager plant-lover into an unwitting assassin? Most commonly, it's either over- or underwatering. (David Brauner)

## HEADS 'N' TAILS

# Out on a limb

By D'VORA BEN SHAUL

The Spanish have a proverb that says "Only a fool tries to rescue a cat from a tree or a woman from love." Be that as it may, sooner or later you may find that your inveterately curious, ever-prowling cat is up in a tree or on a roof, and can't get down.

Climbing up is easy for a cat, but getting down is a matter of experience. The shape of their claws makes it impossible for cats to get a good grip on anything while descending head first. They have to learn to turn around and back down while holding on.

Older cats usually have learned to do this, but young cats keep trying to go down head first. Finding that they cannot do so, they get into a panic.

Despite the proverb, you don't have to be a fool to go to the animal's rescue. But you do have to be very careful and keep your head about you.

Here is what you will need: a ladder, a large heavy towel or small blanket, and an assistant if possible. It will be much easier and safer if you have help.

Put the ladder in position and get as near to the cat as

you can while your assistant holds the ladder and perhaps the animal's regular food bowl. Not that the cat will want to eat, but it will help get its attention. Talk to the cat; put out your hand; point to the food bowl; make the usual sounds you make when calling it. In short, get the cat to come close enough for you to stroke it. Do not make any sudden moves — the animal is

already frightened out of its wits. Place the towel or blanket on the limb or



free, let it go or you will get clawed, sometimes rather badly. Once the cat is safely on the ground it may run away and hide. Don't worry and don't chase after it — this just makes it more afraid. Give it time to calm down and

Incidentally, this situation highlights why declawed cats must never be allowed outside. They cannot climb, cannot escape danger, and in trying to do so often get badly injured, if not killed. When the cat is about a year old

return home. Then feed it and stroke it.

It may take a while for it to calm down. Some cats will spend the rest of the day pacing about and mauling cat complaints. It will pass. Often the cat is calm long before its rescuer has regained his or her composure.

and finds itself out on a limb, it might be a good idea to let it be and not go to the rescue, but wait while it figures out how to get down by itself. It will. Some cats figure it out faster, some more slowly, but they will get the idea in the end. In the meantime, all you have to do is try not to panic.



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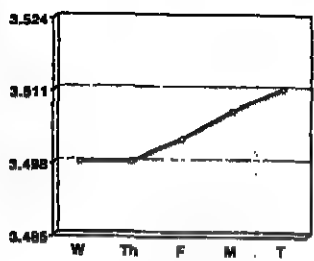
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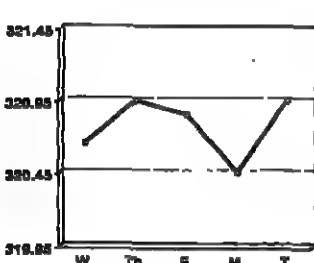
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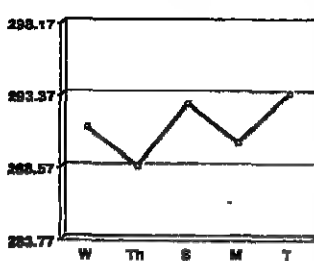
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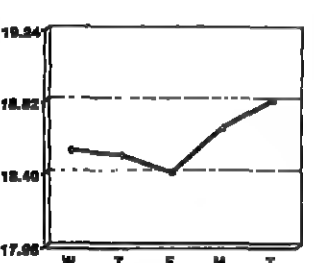
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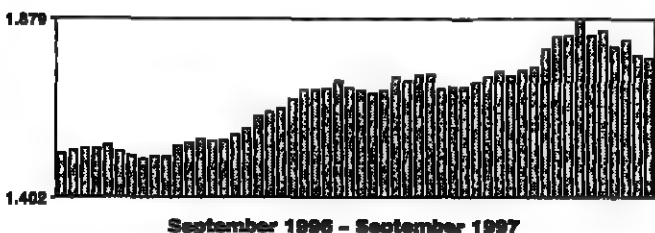
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### Infotech exhibition opens today

Infotech, a large computer communications conference and exhibition, opens at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds today. The two-day event will present new products, including smartcards, software and hardware. Communications Minister Limor Livnat will be guest of honor at the opening, and Clal-Israel managing director Yitzhak Kaul will present plans for his holding company. John Mosbery, director of development for Silicon Graphics International, will lecture on the dramatic changes taking place in research labs and in data storage. A high-tech employment fair will take place simultaneously with the event. *Judy Siegel*

### Schlix Digital Video gets new CEO

Schlix Corporation yesterday announced the appointment of a new CEO of subsidiary Schlix Digital Video, Inc. Daniel Wright, former president of Telex Corporation's audio division, will replace Randolph Hood. The digital printing division develops high-speed ink jet printers for long-run printing systems. In the first quarter of the year, the digital video division's revenues increased 25% over the same period a year ago. *Jennifer Friedlin*

## MKs delay okay for Hapoalim sale

Finance Committee seeks to ensure workers' rights will not be harmed

By DAVID HARTIS

The Knesset Finance Committee yesterday failed to approve the sale of Bank Hapoalim, after MKs demanded to know the precise details of the NIS 4.8 billion sale to the consortium led by businessman Ted Arison.

The delay is intended to let committee members study the sale agreement and to ensure that the rights of the bank's employees are protected, committee members said.

Workers protested against a section of the agreement which states the new owners will protect workers' rights "to the best of their ability." Union chairman Moti Ashur, backed by MK Elie Goldschmidt (Labor), asked for these words to

be removed.

"We have a natural fear of what will happen in the future," said Ashur. "If they take unilateral action, we'll close the bank."

There was widespread agreement that MKs on the committee must be allowed to see the contract paperwork before approving the deal.

"There isn't enough material or data," said MK Yitzhak Cohen (Shas). "Who exactly is the buyer? What's happening with him? But more important, there's absolutely no reference whatsoever to the 10,000 workers and their families, and as long as that's the case I won't let this pass."

Committee coalition leader Michael Kleiner (Gesher) said it is impossible to approve a deal with-

out being party to the necessary information.

"The documents are not meant for public show," argued Supervisor of Banks Zeev Abeles.

Opposition MKs expressed concern that this is the latest stage in the process of Israel's major enterprises ending up in the hands of just five or six businesspeople.

The method of sale was incorrect, charged Haim Oron (Meretz). While not questioning the composition of the consortium that bid for control of the bank, Oron said the sale should have been conducted on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange rather than privately.

"There are many places in the world that have a rule that state banks are not to be sold to foreigners," said Oron.

Meir Yacobson, the director of MI Holdings, the government

company responsible for selling the state-owned banks, defended the nature of the sale, pointing out that the method adopted is now the accepted norm in the US, UK, Germany, and Japan; adding that he is more than happy with the mix of domestic and foreign investors within the winning group.

"There is no reason to restrict foreigners," said Abeles. "If anything, I'd give my blessing to foreign investors in Israeli corporations, as this increases the spread of ownership and competition."

Abeles said he insisted one of Hapoalim's impending new owners retire as a board member of the Maritime Bank before taking up a

role with Hapoalim.

Oron told the committee the bank should have been sold to the public through a government options scheme or by allowing the public to control the company through a board, which could be chaired by a public figure such as a judge.

"I don't know what such a public-controlling share is," said Abeles, in rejecting the proposal.

"The sale was a great success from the perspectives of the process, the winning investors, and the price," said Yacobson, adding that the sale should now be completed during the last quarter of the year.

The committee is to reconvene today to vote on the sale's approval.



### New coal dock

Israel Electric Corporation managing director Rafi Peled (right) and Emmanuel Sakel, managing director of the Ashkelon-Eilat Oil Pipeline Company, shake hands yesterday after agreeing to jointly build a loading dock for the coal-driven Rutenberg power plant outside Ashkelon. The agreement includes the building and operation of the dock and storage facilities, and the purchase of tugboats. *(Yael Somich/Israel Sun)*

## 'Haifa-Irbid railway would cost \$200 million'

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

A train connecting Haifa and the northern Jordanian city of Irbid would cost \$200 million, Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday told a delegation of 14 British business leaders, led by Transport Minister Gavin Strang.

Strang is the first member of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's cabinet to visit Israel.

Earlier this month planners said a proposed line connecting Israeli and Jordanian Dead Sea chemical plants with Eilat would require a \$500m investment.

The British delegation has arrived here to discuss potential joint ventures and prospects for increasing British companies' participation in Israeli projects.

During the meeting, Sharon pitched water, railway infrastructure, and natural gas projects to the British delegates. He also stressed Israel's need for natural gas, telling the delegates that Israel is open to suggestions, including importing liquefied gas.

Strang and the delegates expressed interest in participating in electricity projects and exploring opportunities for Britain's private sector to provide infrastructure equipment to Israel, the ministry said.

Over the last year, bilateral trade between the countries grew 20% to \$3.5 billion.

## Treasury wants foreign funds to get more tax breaks

By DAN GERSTENFELD

The Finance Ministry is seeking to extend tax exemptions for foreign funds investing in Israel.

senior Treasury sources said yesterday.

Income Tax Commissioner Doron Levy said he expected the new tax breaks to generate capital

investments to the tune of an annual \$1 billion.

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, who is at the IMF annual meeting in Hong Kong, mentioned the plan earlier this week. Treasury officials said discussions were held before Neeman left, but they were unaware that the minister had decided to publish the change.

"I'm not yet sure of the details of the minister's decision. I can tell you that until now that in general there are no tax exemptions," said one senior Treasury official.

"However, in special circumstances the minister alone may make exceptions and (former finance minister Dan) Meridor did this in one or two cases."

Foreign pension funds investing

in Israel are already exempt from taxes on investments in the local capital market. The Treasury's decision is likely to affect mainly investments in venture capital funds and private companies.

Yossi Sela, Executive Vice President of Gemini Capital Fund Management Ltd., said that American pension funds started last year to invest in Israel.

"Without the money we received from these funds and University endowments we couldn't have launched our second fund Gemini Two," he said.

Pension funds have also invested in other Israeli venture capital funds such as Polaris, Karden and others.

Until now pension funds were allowed to invest in "young" com-

panies based on their revenues invested in R&D. If the new permit will widen the scope of investment it will allow companies to raise mezzanine finances. It may also allow young Israeli companies who rushed in the past to raise money through initial public offering in Nasdaq, to raise money and go public at a much later stage.

The new regulations are highly discriminatory against Israeli pension funds, asserted Avraham Shochat, a former finance minister from the Labor Party.

"There is no reason in the world why Israeli pension funds, when investing, should have to pay tax, while a pension fund from Ohio or Miami is exempt from tax," Shochat said.

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## Coca-Cola seeks 40% of region's market share

DUBAI (Reuters) — US soft drinks giant Coca-Cola Co., long shunned in the Arab world for doing business with Israel, is targeting a leading share in the Arab market within three years, a senior official said.

Coca-Cola Middle East division president Sandy Allen said in an interview with an in-house magazine obtained by Reuters yesterday that the company's immediate task was to capture 40 percent of the

Middle East business. "We have to attain critical mass in our key markets. In my book that means over 40% of market share," the magazine, *Newsline*, quoted Allen as saying.

"I would aim for us to have overall market leadership throughout Northwest Africa, the Near East and the Gulf within three years," he said.

He said the company was focusing on reinforcing its infrastructure

and sharpening its competitiveness. PepsiCo built up a dominant share of the Mideast's soft drink business over the past quarter century after Coke was placed on the Arab League's boycott list after the Six-Day War, because of Coke's business relations with Israel.

This decade the boycott has largely waned in the aftermath of the Gulf War and in the wake of the Oslo Accords.

Coca-Cola has five bottling plants in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council — two in Saudi Arabia, one in the United Arab Emirates, one in Kuwait and one in Bahrain.

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# Marv Albert accuser testifies

ARLINGTON (AP) — The woman who accuses sportscaster Marv Albert of attacking her in a hotel room took the stand yesterday, telling a jury he pressured her for three-way sex and threw her down on the bed after asking her "Why are you wearing a robe?"

The woman said the violence was a new aspect to their 10-year sexual relationship, where previously, "He would lead me very gently." Her voice began to break and became lower as she continued describing the February 12 hotel room encounter that led to criminal charges against Albert, 54, NBC television's chief basketball play-by-play announcer.

She said she repeatedly protested, telling Albert that she had back problems and that he was hurting her. She said he began to bite her and later forced her mouth open to perform oral sex, saying "You're enjoying this. You enjoy rough sex."

She grabbed her hair, illustrating for the jury what she said Albert had done to pull her head toward him.

She said he told her that she was "a bad girl" for not bringing along another man for three-way sex, using an angry, scolding voice as she quoted him. She had testified that he had called her at home the night before and asked her if she had anyone in mind yet and what scenarios

they could create for their sexual encounter. Albert's accuser described a tender scene in the hotel room between them in the minutes



Marv Albert.

(AP)

before the attack as she sat on his lap, they kissed and began to disrobe. The woman said the mood turned sharply after she came out of the bathroom wearing a robe.

"He said, 'Why are you wearing a robe,' and

I said I had put on some weight and felt embarrassed." After Albert helped her remove the robe, "then he grabbed me by the waist and threw me on the bed. He jumped on my lower back," she said.

The 42-year-old woman, speaking softly, said the NBC sportscaster seemed "very much like a gentleman, very well spoken" when they met a decade ago.

She told jurors how she had arranged three-way encounters with Albert and other men.

She said she and Albert remained close as each went through divorces, and they spoke by phone at least once a week.

The woman said Albert was particularly fond of oral sex and asked her for it often. He was also fond of women's underwear.

"He always told me what he like me to wear and what to bring, what color," she said.

When asked by Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney why he asked her to bring extra panties, the woman responded, "For him to wear."

When the relationship began, she thought she was falling in love with Albert, "but I thought he was a bit self-centered. ... I didn't see myself to be with somebody like that."

Charged with sodomy and assault and battery, Albert could face from five years to life in prison if convicted.

## More violence could cause Euro Cup expulsion of Pontypridd, Brive

PONTYPRIDD, Wales (AP) — Stung by £30,000 in fines for an on-field brawl nine days ago, Pontypridd and defending Ulster French club Brive will be thrown out of rugby union's European Cup if there is a violent repeat when they meet again Saturday.

The French players have threatened to boycott the game at Sardis Road after the September 14 violence in which two players were sent off and brawling erupted again afterwards in a Brive bar.

On Monday, the European Cup committee fined both clubs — half the fines being suspended — and warned that they would be disqualified from the competition if they were involved in any more violence.

"Our players know of the possible consequences if they step out of line on Saturday but I know that they will rise above all that," Pontypridd manager Eddie

Jones said yesterday.

Security has been increased at the 8,000-capacity stadium to prevent any further trouble from the Welsh fans. But the trouble more likely will be on the field.

Pontypridd's New Zealand-born No.8 Dale McIntosh and Brive flank forward Lionel Mallier were both expelled after they were involved in a 20-man brawl. The French players called their Welsh opponents "semi-civilized" and "animals" because of the behavior during the game and afterwards in a bar.

"We in Pontypridd have not been dragged down to an insult-swapping situation," said the Welsh club's chief executive, Cenydd Thomas.

"We have kept our comments strictly to the facts, and we haven't said one word that could be interpreted as an insult to Brive or their players."

## Davis Cuppers in tough group

Israel may be feeling some relief after the technical win over Morocco but there is still stiff competition looming ahead in the next round of Davis Cup tennis.

The eight teams, besides Israel, who will compete in the Euro/African Zone Group I are England, France, Austria, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Rumania and the Ukraine.

The draw to decide Israel's opponent will be made next month in London.

If Israel faces England, France or Austria, the tie will be played in Ramat Hasharon but against Norway or Rumania, Israel will be the guests. Heather Chait

## Rusedski struggles to win in Munich

MUNICH (AP) — Britain's newest hero, Greg Rusedski, struggled to beat Todd Woodbridge yesterday as the hunt started for tennis' richest prize at the Compaq Grand Slam Cup.

Rusedski, who electrified his countrymen by reaching the US Open finals, slammed 20 aces and needed almost two hours to edge the Australian, 4-6, 6-1, 7-5 in a first-round match.

Most of the world's top players are entered, looking to take home the sport's top purse of \$1.5 million.

Rusedski broke Woodbridge's serve at 6-5 in the third set with an angled cross-court return, then serving out for the win.

Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia blew past Spain's Sergi Bruguera in a battle of former French Open winners, 6-4, 6-3, at the event, which brings together the 16 players showing the best record in the Grand Slams.

France's Cedric Pioline won when Belgium's Filip DeWulf withdrew in the second set with a twisted ankle with the score 7-6 (7-4), 2-2.

Chile's Marcelo Rios also struggled at first before ousting Australia's Mark Woodford, 6-7 (2-7), 6-3, 6-1.

Top players like Pete Sampras, US Open champion Patrick Rafter and French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten play their opening matches today.



Greg Rusedski.

(AP)

## Betar in 7-2 rampage

By OREK FATTAL

Champions Betar Jerusalem destroyed State Cup holders Hapoel Beersheba last night in a stunning 7-2 victory that closed round 6 of National League play and left no doubt as to their desire to capture the title again this season.

Hungarian maestro Stefan Saloi got himself on to the scoresheet four times in a remarkable match that was tied 0-0 at halftime. The Betar forward scored straight after the interval and supplied a second goal eight minutes later.

The Betaris increased the lead in the 57th minute from a well-struck effort by Yossi Abukis, then Saloi scored the best goal of the night two minutes afterwards, pivoting past a defender in the area then cheekily prodding the ball past the hapless Hapoel goalkeeper Shaul Smadja.

By the time Saloi scored again for the fourth and final time in the

79th minute the Betar faithful were hoarse from their celebrations.

Sergei Gossiyev and Yossi Benayoun each managed to reply on behalf of the Negev side but this only served to send the Jerusalemites storming over the ramps in search of further booty.

With his own appetite satiated, Saloi laid on a goal for colleague Nir Sevilla two minutes from time, and in the final minute of the match Eli Ohana joined in the goalfest heading in the seventh of the night.

The result sends Betar into second place behind Hapoel Tel Aviv and should do wonders for their self-esteem as they face two critical games in the next six days — a weekend appointment with fellow-title contenders Hapoel Petah Tikva and a return-leg UEFA Cup match against FC Brugge on Tuesday.

## Greeks drop Ra'anana

By ELI GRONER

Dino Radja scored at will and dominated the paint, pouring in 32 points to go along with his 14 rebounds, as Panathinaikos defeated Maccabi Ra'anana 84-74 in EuroCup play last night. The win sent the Greeks to the top of Group 8, while Ra'anana fell to 1-1.

Ra'anana wasn't able to convert its good fortune — playing the heavy favorites to win the cup at home before the Greeks have hit their stride — into an upset victory.

But they were close. A Paul Thompson (14 points) three-point play with under 12 minutes remaining gave the locals a 53-50 advantage. But a 12-2 Greek run a few minutes sealed the victory.

In other EuroCup action, Hapoel Eilat trounced Germany's Rostock club, 107-71.

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## Glamorgan, King of Wales

A few thousand Welshmen voted with their feet this week and illustrated where, for many, the principality's priorities lie.

The referendum on whether they wanted their own form of self government in the year 2000 was swung in the end by the extra 6,721 who put their cross in the "Yes" box among an electorate of 1,112,117.

But the real contest of the week was to be found a few miles over the Severn Bridge in England, where Glamorgan beat Somerset to win their first county cricket championship since 1969.

The aforesaid Welshmen with the voting feet managed to turn the cozy little Taunton ground into a far-flung corner of Wales and as the jubilant Welsh side celebrated the victory which narrowly pipped Kent to the title, the strains of "Land Of My Fathers" could be heard rising from the masses.

Glamorgan are a proud county, unique among those contesting the county championship each year in that they are actually based outside England.

Therefore pulling on the famous sweater with the yellow daffodil emblem seems to instill much more than just professional pride in the county's players.

Of the 11 who took the field for the championship decider this week, no fewer than nine were either born or educated in Wales. Only Yorkshire among first class counties could hope to achieve such a pooling of local talent.

Even then, whereas the White Rose county's recently-discarded policy of "Yorkies only" seemed to be a hindrance, Glamorgan's natural trawl of players close to its heartland appears to be a positive benefit.

The county side acutely reflects the Welsh people, who in recent days have agonized so much over whether devolution from

Westminster would be right for them. Passionate, proud and on occasions perhaps a touch too parochial, they have often been seen as a friendly, soft touch side who lack the killer instinct to win major honors.

As their victorious captain Matthew Maynard observed: "Perhaps we needed to become a little less friendly and more

focused on winning."

Certainly like last year, when Leicestershire won the title, the team which has

performed consistently over the season has taken the top spot.

Opener Steve James secured an England A team trip this winter thanks to a haul of runs, Hugh Morris played what may well turn out to be his last season for the club as though it was his first and Darren Thomas weighed in with over 50 wickets.

But perhaps the key factor in the championship win was the signing of Waqar Younis. Wales may have produced some fine cricketers but it needed this native of Vehari, Pakistan, to tip the balance in their favor.

Bowling with fire, intelligence and a lot of heart, Waqar took 68 wickets - many at vital stages of games - to keep the Welshmen in the hunt.

And finally Maynard, captaining the side with intelligence and purpose, he joins James, Whitaker of Leicestershire and Dermot Reeve and Tim Munton of Warwickshire as rejects from the England side who have gone on to lead championship winning sides in the past four seasons.

Given the talent which has passed through their sides since 1969, the long-suffering Welsh supporters may have had to wait too long for another championship trophy to leave England. But now they have done it again don't bank on it being another 28 years before the valleys reverberate with more victory anthems.

### LONDON CALLING



### Getting Ready

The US's top-ranked Tiger Woods (l) chats with Europe's Bernhard Langer at the practice grounds at Valderrama golf club in preparation for the Ryder Cup which begins Friday.

(Reuters)

## Forest players urged to sue Anderlecht

NOTTINGHAM (AP) — Convinced they were cheated out of a place in the 1984 UEFA Cup final by a bribed referee, former Nottingham Forest stars said yesterday they may sue the club that beat them, Belgium's Anderlecht.

A day after UEFA banned Anderlecht from the next European competition it qualifies for, the Forest players were urged to take legal action against the Belgian club.

UEFA imposed the sanction after former Anderlecht chairman Constant Vanden Stock confessed earlier this month he paid \$26,000 as "a loan" to Spanish referee Guruceta Muro, who took charge of the 1984 UEFA Cup semifinal game in Brussels.

Vanden Stock denied he tried to influence the game, which Anderlecht, helped by a controversial penalty and a disallowed

Forest goal, won 3-0 to reach the final 3-2 on aggregate.

Anderlecht was beaten in the final by another English club, Tottenham.

"The club believes Anderlecht undermined the whole moral and ethical base of football," said Forest's public relations officer and former captain, Larry Lloyd.

"Nottingham Forest are of the firm opinion that UEFA have not gone far enough in their punishment of Anderlecht."

"Most of the players who played in that game have joined forces with the club in agreeing to consider taking further action. Nottingham Forest and the players involved will be guided by legal advice from Brussels."

UEFA president Lennart Johansson defended the punishment, saying it was "morally and ethically correct."

## South Africa to play Austria, Denmark

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — South Africa are to play friendlies against Austria and Denmark next year ahead of their first appearance in the World Cup finals, officials said yesterday.

South Africa have accepted invitations to play Austria in Vienna on May 31 and Denmark

in Copenhagen on June 3.

The country last week invited England to travel to Johannesburg to play another friendly in May as part of their preparations for the finals.

The announcement brings to 11 the number of games South Africa will play ahead of the tournament in France.

## English transfer system faces shake-up

LONDON (Reuters) — The Premier League plans to introduce a new transfer system in July which could make instant millionaires of its top players but the scheme faces opposition from smaller soccer clubs.

Under the new system, which promotes "player power" in the aftermath of the Bosman ruling, a player over 24 who reached the end of his contract would be able to move clubs without a transfer fee.

These players would, however, expect to attract a sizable signing-on fee and negotiate huge salaries.

Mike Lee, spokesman for the Premier League, said yesterday it wanted this new system to start from July 1, 1998, during the close season. It has the support of the players' "trade union," the Professional Footballers' Association.

But he said agreement had not been reached with the Football League, representing the interests of clubs in lower divisions.

"They understand the need for reform but they are seeking a transitional period," Lee said.

He said the new system would not affect the in-contract system from which most clubs in the lower leagues derive their transfer income.

By creating a level playing field with the conditions attached to overseas players, it would increase the incentive to buy British, Lee said.

Under the new system, players aged up to 21 will gain development and training contracts with one day a week reserved for studying towards vocational qualifications.

If, at 21, the player is offered a new contract but decides to leave, the original club should receive compensation from his new club. From 21 to 24, any selling club relinquishing a player could claim compensation, the level of which would be established by a panel.

## New ICC boss wants quadrennial world c'ship

SYDNEY (Reuters) — Australian Malcolm Gray, the next International Cricket Council president, said yesterday he wants to introduce a quadrennial Test championship in the new millennium.

Gray was appointed to replace India's Jagmohan Dalmiya as the ICC chief in 2000.

"It's too early to say exactly how it'll work, but it will be a separate competition from the traditional test series."

"It's a matter of all the countries getting together and working out their programming so we can find time to play it."

Gray, 57, will serve as vice-president from June 1999 before replacing Dalmiya as president a year later for a three-year term.

He was appointed to the role by the Australian Cricket Board under the ICC's new rotation system in which each of the nine Test-playing nations takes turns in choosing the president.

The system was introduced last March after the vote between Gray and Dalmiya for the current presidency ended in deadlock.

Gray, who will become the first Australian to head the game's ruling body, said while he believed cricket was currently in a healthy state, administrators needed to make changes to guarantee the sport's long-term success.

"The biggest challenge that faces us is how we can manage the sport's commercial interests with the way we want the game to be played," he said. "This is something that is happening in sports around the world. In our case, we have to find a balance between the commercial appeal of one-day cricket with the traditions of Test cricket."

"One day cricket has been good in that it has brought in lots of new fans, but in the last five to 10 years it's got to the stage where the majority think we're playing too much one-day cricket."

Gray said his plans to develop the game would include increasing the number of countries allowed to play Test cricket. At present only Australia, England, West Indies, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Zimbabwe and New Zealand have Test match status.

# Calendars

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— Skyviews of Israel  
— Israel 1997-98  
— Jerusalem 1997-98

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with illustrations from the collection of the Jewish Museum in Prague. Stunning photographs of museum pieces from Prague illustrate 16 months from September 1997 through December 1998, with large write-in spaces, all national and Jewish holidays, candle-lighting times, list of Jewish holidays through 2000, including four wallet calendars. Size: 33 cm x 25.5 cm (13" x 10") JP Price NIS 48

Views of Jerusalem

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With illustrations from The British Library. Sixteen months of glorious illuminated manuscripts. 16 plates of biblical scenes from the golden Haggadah (c. 1330) from the British Library. September 1997 through December 1998, with large spaces for appointments, all Jewish holidays, candle-lighting times and Jewish dates. Size: 30.5 cm x 34 cm (12" x 13 1/2") JP Price NIS 52

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— Splendor of the Holy Land  
— David Roberts  
— Skyviews of Israel  
— Israel 1997-98  
— Jerusalem 1997-98

Fifteen months from October 1997 through December 1998 with large spaces for appointments, life and match favorite photographs by David Roberts, stunning aerial views of Israel and a new, artistically designed photography calendar, "Skyviews of Israel". Popular favorites "Israel" and "Jerusalem" calendars return with dramatic, colorful scenic photographs. Size: 32.5 cm x 25.5 cm (12 3/4" x 10") JP Price NIS 39 each

Jerusalem Temple Calendar 1995-2000

This 5-year calendar combines past, present and future with imagination, antiquities and reconstruction of vessels, in paintings, photographs and drawings. 12 months. Size: 32.5 cm x 34.5 cm (12 3/4" x 13 1/2") JP Price NIS 39

Israel - The Lights Within

Exquisite photographs of various sites in Jerusalem, Safed and throughout Israel, by Jody Segal, with appointments spaces, candle-lighting times and holidays. Size: 28.5 cm x 24 cm (11 1/4" x 9 1/2") JP Price NIS 39

Jewish Calendar 1998

with illustrations from the collection of the Jewish Museum in Prague. Stunning photographs of museum pieces from Prague illustrate 16 months from September 1997 through December 1998, with large write-in spaces, all national and Jewish holidays, candle-lighting times, list of Jewish holidays through 2000, including four wallet calendars. Size: 33 cm x 25.5 cm (13" x 10") JP Price NIS 48

Views of Jerusalem

Wild Flowers of Israel. Our "personal" favorites - big spaces to write appointments, 16 months, one photograph per page. One for you and one for a gift. Size: 27 cm x 21 cm (10 5/8" x 8 1/4") JP Price NIS 32 each

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— Bible Stories  
— Nachum Gutman  
— Claudia

Mini calendars with famous paintings and appointment spaces, weekly Torah portions, holidays in Hebrew and English. Choose old favorites from bright Bible illustrations by Gutman or Olga Tzoref's decorative Bible Series illustrations or this year's new series of contemporary illustrations by Claudia. Size: 16 cm x 16 cm (6 3/8" x 6 3/8") JP Price NIS 21 each

Jewish Engagement Calendar

1998. Popular and useful spiral bound desk calendar, one week per page, illustrated with 26 magnificent full-color photographs from the collection of The Israel Museum. 15 months from October 1997 through December 1998, with large spaces for appointments, includes all Jewish and North American holidays, world candle-lighting times, holiday chart through 2002, weekly Torah readings. Size: 16 cm x 25 cm (6 3/8" x 9 7/8") JP Price NIS 48

Israeli Artists Calendar

An old favorite, the Israeli artist's wall calendar, never fresher look this year, with reproductions of contemporary and classic Israeli works of art. Size: 33 cm x 24.5 cm (13" x 9 5/8") JP Price NIS 39

Hebrew Men

Three display calendars in the form of a postcard of a painting by inspired artist Ben-Zion, photographs of Israeli artists and colored Hebrew manuscripts in this triple selection. Each is a work of art. Size: 24.5 cm x 34.5 cm (9 3/4" x 13 1/2") JP Price NIS 49

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## NEWS

of the muse

## Ashdod alive with the sound of chamber music

The Ashdod Chamber Orchestra, under new music director Luis Gorelik, presents a series of eight programs this season, each presented in two locales in Ashdod: Yad Labanim and Heichal Hatarbut. Gorelik will lead half the programs. Others to share conducting duties include Israelis Michael Haran and Ricardo Futoransky, Korean Rin-Jong Hyang, and Spaniard Roberto Tubaro. Among the soloists are pianist Yanina Kudlik, cellist Luba Rabin, and clarinetist Ilan Schul. The repertoire varies from Mozart, Bartok and Vivaldi to Copland, Handel, and Israeli composer Daniel Shalit. The season opens November 20.

Michael Aizenstadt

## Russia chastises Gergiev

The Russian government chastised the artistic director of the Kirov Opera and Ballet on Tuesday for signing a guest contract with New York's Metropolitan Opera without official approval. Government spokesman Igor Shabdrasulov noted that it took a presidential directive to appoint Valery Gergiev to the Kirov, based at the Mariinsky Theater in St. Petersburg.

"[As] the artistic and general director of the Mariinsky Theater, Gergiev must not take unilateral steps and sign foreign contracts without informing the Russian government of this and coordinating the matter with it," Shabdrasulov told IAR-Tass news agency. The Russian government has not said whether it will try to block the contract under which Gergiev will conduct eight operas at the Met in the next five seasons, primarily works in Russian. He will be the Met's first principal guest conductor. (AP)

## Exotic 'English Patient' site a big draw

Onk Ejmel ("The Camel's Neck") is becoming a popular tourist site in Tunisia. Shaped by the winds, it is named after a rock that resembles the neck of a camel. Why the attraction?

Millions of fans of *The English Patient* have seen this rock as the backdrop for some of the Oscar-winning film's scenes, including the dramatic plane crash that opens the picture.

In 1995, *The English Patient* producer and designer were looking for a desert site where they could land a plane. When they came across Onk Ejmel, they thought it was fantastic.

It was fantastic for Tunisian tourism too. "The success of *The English Patient* was a godsend," said Tunisian Tourism Minister Slabedine Maoui. "The beauty of the desert sites where it was partly filmed has had a positive effect on Saharan tourism in Tunisia." Onk Ejmel is 30 km from the luxury hotels boarding the oasis of Tozeur. Bookings in the area were 15% higher than last year. That is good news for a country that derives 16%, or \$1.3 billion, of its foreign currency revenue from tourism. (Reuters)

## Cough-free concerts

BBC Radio, eager to take the cough out of concerts, is offering free cough drops in rustle-proof wrappers to audiences attending live performances.

The move was applauded by pianist Allan Schiller who said, "There is nothing worse than getting to a quiet moment and people coughing or opening candy wrappers."

The BBC's Radio 3 classical music station is giving out the powerful menthol and eucalyptus lozenges in specially waxed paper wrappers. "Venues feel they are being genuinely helpful to their patrons. They will also make life much easier for the audience listening at home," said Radio 3 marketing manager James Pestell. (Reuters)

## Billy Joel rolls over to classical music

Billy Joel's blind love of rock 'n' roll is over. "I started out learning classical music from the age of four," Joel said. "When I got to be 13, this hot seductress in shredded fishnet stockings swept me away. I had a passionate affair with rock 'n' roll. But I'm 48 now and it's getting old."

Joel, whose latest album is *Greatest Hits Volume III*, announced recently he has quit writing pop music, at least temporarily, and is focusing on classical compositions. His disenchantment runs deep. "I don't want to be a rock star. I want to be an artist," he said.

The singer of such radio hits as "Tell Her About It" and "Uptown Girl" thinks he's not the only guy his age tiring of the same old pop-music formulas. "The boomers are out of the pop field right now," he said. "They don't like what they're hearing, and they're not buying it." (AP)

## No highest bidder for Hendrix guitar

A guitar once owned by the late rock legend Jimi Hendrix, which had been expected to fetch more than £180,000 (\$287,000), failed to find a buyer at a recent auction in London.

The black Fender Stratocaster, given by Hendrix to fellow rock musician Al Kooper in 1968, was bid up to £100,000 but failed to reach its reserve price, which was not disclosed.

A guitar used by Hendrix, who died in 1970, at the Woodstock Festival sold for £198,000 in 1990. (Reuters)



Tali Milstein (22) is just one of thousands of Israelis who have bought Elton John's 'Candle in the Wind 1997.'

(Israel Sun)

## 'Candle' burning strong

By CHARLES SOLOMON

Worldwide orders for Elton John's "Candle in the Wind 1997," his tribute to the late Diana, Princess of Wales, are closing in on the 10 million mark. The song is destined to become the biggest selling single in the history of recorded music.

And Israel is no exception. Retail outlets throughout the country are reporting record-breaking demand for the re-recorded version of "Candle in the Wind." Today the song's local distributor, Helicon, is expected to announce that the record has gone gold - i.e., over 20,000 copies sold. This is the first time a single has ever achieved this volume in Israel.

The song has such universal appeal that people from seven to 70 have been lining up to buy their copy of it. The song was originally recorded in 1973 as a tribute to film star and pop icon Marilyn Monroe. As soon as news of Diana's death became known, radio stations around the world began playing "Candle in the Wind," as the lyrics seemed to mirror the life and death of the Princess of Wales.

After being approached by Buckingham Palace to perform the song at Diana's funeral, Elton John asked his original writing partner, Bernie Taupin, to rewrite the lyrics. With less than a week to complete the task, Bernie Taupin was at first reluctant to change the lyrics for fear of being disrespectful to Diana's memory. But in the end, he came up with the "England's Rose" lyrics, which perfectly captured the public's mood.

The song was re-recorded in just two takes, a

few hours after the funeral, with Sir George Martin (the Beatles' producer) in charge of production.

With radio stations across the globe playing the original version of the song, as well as the live version taped from the funeral, it was left to Elton John's record company, Polygram, to release the re-recorded version in less than two weeks. With pre-sale orders in the UK alone standing at 1.5 million copies, this was an incredible accomplishment.

On the day of its release in the UK, "Candle in the Wind" sold 658,000, instantly propelling it to the No. 1 position on the British charts. It thus became the fastest selling single in British music industry history (only "Do They Know It's Christmas?" comes close, selling 750,000 copies in its first week of release in 1984). Eight days after its release, "Candle" had sold over two million copies in the UK.

Worldwide orders for the single currently stand at eight million, over half of those for the US and another million for Germany.

Traditionally, Israel is not a singles market. It is only in the last few years that singles have been made available commercially. But the local Polygram licensee foresaw the huge local demand for the single and in a race against the clock, manufactured the single for the local market.

Elton John has always been immensely popular in Israel. His songs are a staple diet of the country's many pop radio stations. His albums continue to sell well, but in a strange twist of fate, his latest album *The Big Picture*, which is being released this month and does not contain the re-recorded version of "Candle in the

Wind," might be eclipsed by the popularity of "Candle in the Wind 1997."

John and his record company, Polygram, have done all they can to separate the two releases, not wanting to be seen as cashing in on Diana's death by including "Candle in the Wind" on his new album.

Under normal circumstances, record companies would reap huge profits from the sale of such a mega hit. But to the music industry's credit, all proceeds from the song are being donated to the Diana, Princess of Wales, Memorial Fund. The British government has announced that all VAT from sales of the single will be donated to the fund as well.

Instead of numerous tribute albums being released, the British record industry has united behind Virgin Records boss, Richard Branson, in releasing a sole tribute album, scheduled for release in December. Its working title is *Diana, Queen Of Hearts*. The album will feature re-recorded versions of old songs, in addition to new ones especially written for the project.

A similar situation occurred in Israel after the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. All the local record companies pooled their artists and resources and released a single tribute album entitled *Goodbye Friend*.

A Live Aid-style concert in memory of Diana is already in the planning stages. It is slated to take place simultaneously in London and New York on September 6, 1998, the first anniversary of her funeral.

The tribute concerts have already attracted some of the biggest names in popular music, with stars such as Paul McCartney, The Rolling Stones, Sting, and Annie Lennox due to appear.

## The magic of Mendelssohn

By MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

This has been the Mendelssohn year for Israeli pianist Daniel Gortler, who helps the Israel Chamber Orchestra open its season this week by performing the composer's second piano concerto. The concert comes in between recording sessions in which the 32-year-old pianist puts on disc Mendelssohn's *Lieder Ohne Worte* ("Songs Without Words"), to be released next year by the Jerusalem Music Center.

"I love Mendelssohn," he says. "Each of these wordless songs is just gorgeous and contrary to popular belief, some are very difficult to perform."

Gortler revels in Mendelssohn's richness of melodic inventions.

"The second movement of the concerto is like one of these songs. It is a great song. Mendelssohn for me is a pure romantic composer. It is actually strange that he was and still is never as popular as some other composers who wrote music

which does not equal his own. I sincerely believe that he was a much better orchestrator than Schubert."

Gortler might very well top this Mendelssohn year in March in New York, where he is scheduled to play the entire cycle of the *Lieder Ohne Worte* in recital at the prestigious 92nd Street Y concert hall in upper Manhattan, as part of Israel's 50th anniversary celebrations.

"Gortler talks candidly and amiably about his first meeting with Spanish conductor Salvador Mas-Condé, who leads the ICO in the current concerts."

"It was a very smooth meeting; we agreed about everything. How much place is there actually for tension between soloist and conductor? What is the ideal relationship between the two of them?"

"The conductor is much more than a mere accompanist; he must be, he must breathe life into the orchestra out there," Gortler says.

"But - and this is a big but - he must also follow the soloist. In this particular concert the pianist leads the way through in interpretation and tempo, and the conductor has less to do than, for example, in the Brahms second piano concerto. But there are conductors who do not necessarily subscribe to the same theory."

"Occasionally you have to give in to a conductor, especially if he is the music director of the orchestra that invited you, even when you feel that his demands for tempo are wrong or at least something you do not believe in," he says.

"That said, at concert time, the soloist can always somewhat push his own way. But on the

whole I prefer a conductor who expresses his notions to one who has nothing whatsoever to say - that is the worst for me."

Gortler, who travels regularly all over the world, always returns to his home in Tel Aviv between foreign engagements.

"As strange as it might sound, this is where I relax. It is good for me to return in between travels. Last year I spent a long time in New York but I really cannot see myself living there; it's a crazy city."

Obviously Gortler would have liked to perform more on home turf but "there are not many opportunities here, are there? Frankly, I am invited quite often to play with orchestras here and there are also chamber-music concerts and recitals as well. But this is a small country and we all know it."

Daniel Gortler plays Mendelssohn's second piano concerto tonight, tomorrow, Sunday and Monday night with the ICO at the Tel Aviv Museum.



Daniel Gortler

## CLASSIC DISCS

## The society of Jewish opera singers

By MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

Opera recordings are particularly hard to come by, because recording the works is expensive, and the market is not as responsive as it used to be. So record companies are reissuing recordings from their vaults on budget-priced CDs. Philips, EMI and Decca have their familiar two-disc-for-the-price-of-one series, amassing extensive catalogs.

Now RCA is releasing budget-priced discs with booklets con-

taining the full librettos. Its catalog includes some of the finest opera recordings around.

I was delighted to hear Erich Leinsdorf's 1959 *Turandot* with the Rome Opera Orchestra and chorus (RCA 2 discs, 09026 626872). Although the conductor lacks warmth and finesse in his Puccinian touch, this recording features Jussi Boerling, a tenor worth hearing again and again. His sweet tone is a pure delight, his arias brilliant.

Leinsdorf's 1957 recording of Donizetti's *Lucia di*

*Lammermoor* (RCA, 2 discs, 09026 685372) features the fine bright coloratura of soprano Roberta Peters in the lead, with the honey tenor of Jan Peerce as her doomed lover. This is bel canto opera at its best, at least as far as the hero and heroine are concerned.

Peters is also captivating in *Il barbiere di Siviglia* (RCA, 3 discs, 09026 685522), although I prefer a mezzo-soprano singing Rosina. But Peters' exciting coloratura sweeps you along. Here she is aided above

all by Robert Merrill's very warm and humane presentation of Figaro. This is a very romantic *Barbiere*.

Peters, Peerce and Merrill were members of a small club which no longer exists: Jewish opera singers who were the big stars of their time, especially in New York. Very few Jews have followed them. Opera may not be the kind of career a Yiddish mamma dreams of; Heifetz and Perlman have long been the role models preferred over Pavarotti and Callas.

## Monterey Jazz Fest turns 40

By DAVID KLIGMAN

On opening night of the inaugural Monterey Jazz Festival in 1958, emcee Dizzy Gillespie knelt on stage in front of Louis Armstrong, then rose and kissed his idol's hand.

The gesture stunned the legendary trumpeter and was one of the first of many memorable moments at the festival, which helped introduce jazz to the California coastal community that initially was leery of such an event.

Its rival, the Newport Jazz Festival in the aristocratic New England sailing town of Newport, Rhode Island, began four years earlier. But Monterey, which celebrated its 40th anniversary on Friday, is billed as the world's longest continuous jazz festival.

Monterey has always been special.

"I think it's one of the greatest settings for jazz that there is," says arranger Gerald Wilson, whose "Theme for Monterey" composition debuted at the festival.

"It has so much history. You've got the ocean. You've got Cannery Row. You've got John Steinbeck. The whole setting is fabulous," says Wilson, 78.

Besides Wilson, the 40th anniversary lineup included Arturo Sandoval, David Sanborn, Dave Ellis, Sonny Rollins and Jim Hall. Saturday afternoon was devoted to the blues, with Buddy Guy, Koko Taylor and Otis Rush.

There was also a selection of songs from *West Side Story*, jazz photography exhibits and a panel discussion of jazz and the movies with Dave Grusin and Clint Eastwood, a festival board member and former mayor in nearby Carmel. Tickets for the 6,500-seat arena, where the top acts perform, sold out in July. Families often include their season tickets in wills and they have been contested in divorce settlements.

With such a successful formula, it's hard to believe that festival founder Jimmy Lyons at first wasn't sure whether Monterey would support a jazz event.

"He had to convince the community that jazz - which meant black people and junkies - wouldn't spoil the children, wilt the vegetation or corrupt the coastline," Ira Kamin wrote in his 1978 history of the festival, *Dizzy, Duke, the Count and Me*. Nearly all the jazz greats have played Monterey - Armstrong, Gillespie, Duke Ellington, Thelonious Monk, Miles Davis, John Coltrane, Stan Getz, Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughan and on and on.

Dave Brubeck, Max Roach and Gerry Mulligan all performed that first year, with Mort Sahl entertaining the audience with jokes between acts.

It also was the only time Billie Holiday appeared at the Monterey festival. She wore a fur to keep warm in the chilly October air and looked lost as she began her performance on the last night of the festival. Mulligan put his arm around her and comforted her.

Holiday began by singing her mournful standard, "Good Morning, Heartache," but later slurred her words and had to be helped off stage.

She died nine months later at the age of 44 after years of drug abuse.

Jazz was then such a novelty to the area that organizers of the first festival included an encyclopedia definition of the term in the program. There also was a lengthy list of hipster terms.

Maybe the festival's greatest contribution was bringing jazz to a wider audience.

If there were any complaints throughout the years, it was that the festival wasn't diverse enough under Lyons's leadership.

Lyons died in 1994, two years after he retired.

"You could say that he got a little stale at the end," says Tim Jackson, who replaced Lyons as the festival's general manager. "But I think Jimmy always looked at it from his own artistic perspective."

"And that's what made the Monterey programming so unique, and that's what makes it stand the test of time, when you look back over the programs and see who was here."

This year also marked the 28th year of the festival-sponsored jazz competition for West Coast high-school students. Winners perform at the festival as part of an all-star band and tour Japan every year.

A few have gone on to prominence after high school, including pianist Benny Green, who was invited to help lead this year's high-school all-star band.

As for the actual experience of attending the festival, Green describes it as a "serious party." (AP)

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## 2 wounded guards return home

The two Israeli Embassy guards shot by terrorists in Amman on Monday were flown home yesterday for continued medical treatment.

Moshe Levine and Amikam Hadar were taken on stretchers from the King Hussein Medical Center, where they spent the night after the attack, and carried onto a civilian Israeli helicopter.

"I feel very well," Levine told reporters as he was carried out.

Hadar and Levine were flown to Sheba Hospital at Tel Hashomer in a helicopter provided by the Chimair company, in the first civilian Israeli flight permitted to land in Amman. The Jordanians allowed the pilot to fly a special low-level route in order to shorten the flight.

King Hussein visited the two men Monday night and said the attack was "regrettable and disgraceful. It is not part of our traits nor our morals, and I am confident that we will find who is responsible for this act and who is behind it."

A security source told Reuters a number of people had been detained for questioning in the main Baqaa Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of the city.

"Until now no one has been arrested... but there is valuable information available now and the search is under way," Minister of State for Information Samir Mutawae told reporters after a cabinet meeting which dealt primarily with the shooting. "The extent of information available makes the security forces confident they will arrest the perpetrators in a very short period," he added.



A nurse at the helicopter pad of Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer yesterday welcomes wounded security guard Moshe Levine home for treatment.

The incident, which took place in broad daylight in a highly policed area where many foreign diplomats live, has exposed loopholes in tight security to protect Israeli diplomats since the

embassy opened following the 1994 peace treaty.

The police have made a rare public appeal for any evidence which might lead to the arrest of the perpetrators and have offered an undisclosed sum of money as a

reward.

Mutawae said it is too early to determine who was behind the attack, apparently contradicting earlier statements by the interior minister, who described the attack as an individual act not linked to a

wider political organization.

An unknown group calling itself the "Islamic Resistance in Jordan" claimed responsibility for the attack in a statement sent to news agencies in Beirut.

(News agencies)

## General strike postponed

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and news agencies

The Histadrut has postponed the general strike called for tomorrow until Sunday, but plans to stage nationwide labor sanctions tomorrow instead.

The decision gives Histadrut officials a chance to meet with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman who returns from the IMF Conference in Hong Kong tomorrow.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appealed to Histadrut Secretary-General Amir Peretz last night to open a dialogue with the government about economic policy.

The government's decision does not harm existing agreements or violate workers' rights," Netanyahu wrote Peretz.

He added that the government's economic plan was aimed at helping the disadvantaged and would add tens of thousands of jobs.

Still, the labor federation went ahead with plans to stage major sanctions today.

Arab schools, local councils and state workers will strike today, while welfare officials nationwide won't hold office hours for the public or answer phones.

In addition, 3,500 workers at the National Insurance Institute will continue sanctions for a fourth straight day.

As part of tomorrow's sanctions, government offices and local councils won't hold office hours for the public. Workers will report to their jobs but won't answer telephones.



### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	WIND	WAVE
Amsterdam	07	39	19	84
Berlin	09	48	17	63
Buenos Aires	09	56	20	70
Cairo	21	73	21	81
Chicago	10	54	17	63
Copenhagen	10	50	14	57
Frankfurt	08	50	14	57
Geneva	13	50	11	50
Helsinki	07	38	11	50
Hong Kong	13	50	11	50
Jakarta	09	48	20	70
London	18	64	21	79
Los Angeles	23	73	20	79
Moscow	11	50	14	57
Montreal	17	54	18	64
Munich	08	39	20	70
New York	18	64	21	79
Paris	14	50	14	57
Rome	14	50	14	57
Stockholm	07	38	11	50
Tokyo	10	54	17	63
Vienna	09	48	20	70
Zurich	09	48	20	70



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### Average household monthly income

Year	Gross	Net	% Change*
1990	4,027	3,232	-
1991	4,778	3,895	1.3
1992	5,576	4,494	3.1
1993	6,048	4,882	-2.1
1994	7,341	5,862	6.9
1995	8,417	6,527	1.2
1996	9,254	7200	0.0

\*Inflation adjusted

## Average family income same as 1995

By DAVID HARRIS

The average wage-earning urban family brought home a net monthly income of NIS 7,200 in 1996, according to a survey published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics. This figure, which applies to a statistical family of 3.8 persons having 1.7 incomes, shows no real change since 1995.

The average wage-earner brought home NIS 4,570 or NIS 27 per hour, respective real increases of 0.6% and 1%, the survey found.

But in the streets of Jerusalem, some "average" working people were not convinced yesterday that they are getting a better deal today than in recent years.

"It's absolutely necessary that we have two incomes," said Shosh Horesh, 34, an accountant/book-keeper and the mother of three, whose husband, Mike, is an economist. "We lose about a third of our wages even before we've brought them home. Our salaries haven't kept up with inflation and as the kids grow older there are more demands."

A single 42-year old immigrant office manager from the US said she finds it extremely difficult to live on her net monthly salary of NIS 4,000.

"I can't live on that much myself, never mind with a family," she said. "I rarely buy myself clothing and for holidays I stay with friends or my family back in America."

Gross monthly wages in families with a working householder last year averaged NIS 9,250, before deductions for income tax, National Insurance Institute payments, and

health tax. This figure is 0.1 percent lower in real terms than in 1995.

Within this category, the average net income per capita reached NIS 2,360 - just 0.3% higher than 1995.

Of gross earnings, 22.2% went for direct taxes, a similar figure to that for 1995. Within the overall earnings, 86% came from wages.

In families where the householder was unemployed, the gross income was NIS 2,930, or 2.1% lower in real terms than in 1995. Net income in such households stood at NIS 2,810, a 2.2% real decline, while net per capita income fell 2% to NIS 1,385. In this category, direct taxes totaled 4.4% of overall income.

The net standard per capita measurement used by the Central Bureau of Statistics to determine standards of living shows the working group to be 1.7 times better off than the unemployed group. These figures are similar to those in 1995.

These data are based on a survey of 4,581 wage-earning households and 2,231 where the householder was out of work. Further details of the study are to be released in the coming days.

In terms of changes needed to help Israelis, the office manager suggested that the Treasury address the problem of unaffordable housing, both for rent and sale. "Mortgages are *bupkes* (negligible) and aren't even worth looking at," she said.

Horesh, meanwhile, suggested the Treasury tax the ultra-rich, who she said "don't give money back. We're middle-class and we get screwed every time," she said, referring to government plans to cut child benefit payments.

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### Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawings, the winning cards were the 7 of spades, the 9 of hearts, the ace of diamonds and the 7 of clubs, and the 8 of spades, the 9 of hearts, the 8 of diamonds and king of clubs.

In the weekly Lotto drawing last night, the following numbers were chosen: 49, 36, 35, 21, 11, 9. The supplemental number was 16.

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